

AMBASSADE D' HAITI
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1982

Embassy of Haiti
Press Release

The following excerpts were made in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on March 31, 1982, by Jean Robert Estimé, Foreign Minister of Haiti, regarding the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The Republic of Haiti, after having welcomed with satisfaction the measures announced in favor of the Caribbean Region by President Ronald Reagan in his speech of February 24, 1982, has unfortunately the feeling of being victim of a discrimination as far as the allocation of the funds designed to support the falling economies of the countries of the region. President Reagan had raised a new hope in presenting a comprehensive program including a complete package of measures aimed to liberalize commercial trade, promote investment, and provide a financial support which although insufficient could constitute an appreciable palliative to the most urgent problems. Moreover, the philosophy of the foreseen action, in stressing the essential role of the private sector, was responding to the great objectives of the government and the people of Haiti.

We shall not forget the strong statement made on this occasion worthy of the noblest pan-american traditions. "We are the New World, a world of sovereign and independent states that today stand shoulder to shoulder with a common respect for one another and a greater tolerance of one another's shortcomings". However, once again, the regional solidarity seems to neglect the small Republic of Haiti since the aid that is allocated for us risks a diminution in real terms. This incomprehensible situation is opposed to the spirit and the letter of the joint declaration of November 6, 1981, and to the engagements undertaken by the U.S. Government to assist those less developed. We don't share a certain argument which pretends that we are paying the price of political stability and social peace accomplished successfully for more than ten years by the President for Life of the Republic of Haiti. But we reserve the right to discuss and eventually to reject the terms of any financial aid program whose limits and contents would be incompatible with our national needs.