

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 01 OCTOBER 1991.

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1. HAITI: MILITARY OUSTS ARISTIDE [REDACTED]

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THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT ARISTIDE YESTERDAY PROBABLY WILL USHER IN A NEW PERIOD OF POLITICAL TURMOIL AND VIOLENCE AS THE MILITARY LEADERS ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE REBEL TROOPS WHO TOPPLED ARISTIDE DEMANDED THAT HE BE EXILED AND REPLACED BY ACTING ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS. ARISTIDE LEFT HAITI ON A PLANE PROVIDED BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ. [REDACTED]

THE UPRISING WAS INITIATED BY FEWER THAN 100 DISGRUNTLED ENLISTED MEN--FROM A VARIETY OF POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS--WHO RESENTED THE PRESIDENT'S INTERFERENCE IN MILITARY AFFAIRS BY APPOINTING PRO-ARISTIDE OFFICERS TO KEY POSITIONS AND SANCTIONING CIVILIAN SECURITY UNITS. UNTIL THE REBELS HAD TRAPPED ARISTIDE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, HE HAD REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM, VOWING TO PUNISH THE MUTINEERS AND THREATENING SENIOR OFFICERS IF THEY COULD NOT CONTROL THE ARMY. [REDACTED]

PRESS REPORTS INDICATE MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SOME 200 WOUNDED IN CLASHES BETWEEN REBEL TROOPS AND ARISTIDE'S CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS. THE MUTINEERS INDISCRIMINATELY FIRED ON CIVILIANS TO FORCE THEM TO RETREAT TO THEIR HOMES, AND THEY CLOSED MOST RADIO STATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRO-ARISTIDE MOBS REPORTEDLY KILLED SEVERAL PERCEIVED ENEMIES, INCLUDING CENTER-LEFT POLITICIAN SYLVIO CLAUDE, AND DESTROYED THE HOMES OF AT LEAST TWO REBEL SOLDIERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CEDRAS, WHO WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN TRYING TO BROKER A DEAL BETWEEN THE REBELS AND ARISTIDE, IS LIKELY TO ACCEPT THE POSITION AS INTERIM PRESIDENT. THE FACTIONALIZED MILITARY WILL HAVE TROUBLE ESTABLISHING CONTROL, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF LIKELY EFFORTS BY RADICAL LEFTISTS TO INCITE THE MASSES. NO US CITIZENS HAVE YET BEEN HARMED, BUT THEY MAY BECOME TARGETS OF RETALIATORY VIOLENCE. TO ESTABLISH SOME SEMBLANCE OF LEGITIMACY, CEDRAS MAY TRY TO PERSUADE THE REBEL TROOPS TO ALLOW THE LEGISLATURE TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION; HE MAY ALSO SUGGEST TURNING THE PRESIDENCY OVER TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL HEIR, SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT ANDRE CHERILUS. CEDRAS PROBABLY WOULD RESIST INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REINSTATE ARISTIDE, HOWEVER, CALCULATING THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE MILITARY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]