



3. HAITI: FRANCOIS REJECTS JUNTA OPTION FOR NOW [REDACTED]

POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS LAST WEEK TOLD ARMY CHIEF CEDRAS HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE HIGH COMMAND'S PLAN TO INSTALL A JUNTA, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FRANCOIS CALLED THE JUNTA OPTION A LAST RESORT AND PRESSED INSTEAD FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION WITH A HIGHER PROBABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. HE TOLD CEDRAS HE CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE POWER TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER MALVAL OR A SUCCESSOR, THE SO-CALLED ARTICLE 148 OPTION, AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THIS IDEA SEEMS TO BE GAINING SUPPORT AMONG LEGISLATIVE LEADERS. [REDACTED] TWO OF THE THREE CIVILIANS NOMINATED BY A PROMILITARY GROUP LAST WEEK TO BE PART OF A JUNTA HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: WHILE THE JUNTA OPTION APPEARS STALLED, THE HIGH COMMAND COULD REVIVE IT IN COMING WEEKS AT ONE OF THE "NATIONAL CONFERENCES" SPONSORED BY A VARIETY OF OBSCURE GROUPS. FRANCOIS' WILLINGNESS TO

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[REDACTED]

VIEW A JUNTA AS A LAST RESORT MAY INDICATE THAT TACTICAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KEY OFFICERS ARE NOT YET SHARP ENOUGH TO CAUSE OPEN CONFRONTATION. DESPITE THEIR DISAGREEMENTS, TOP OFFICERS WANT TO MAINTAIN ARMED FORCES UNITY IN ORDER TO BLOCK ARISTIDE'S RETURN AND OUT OF FEAR THE SECURITY SITUATION COULD SPIN OUT OF CONTROL IF MILITARY COHESION BREAKS DOWN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]