

### Special Analysis

HAITI:

#### Election Still on Track

*Leftist priest Jean Bertrand Aristide probably will finish first in the presidential election tomorrow, and he has a chance of gaining the absolute majority needed to avoid a runoff in January. Sporadic violence is likely but probably will not force cancellation of the balloting.*

Some 500 international observers will monitor almost 14,000 polling places, where 3 million Haitians will vote. In addition to choosing from a crowded field of presidential aspirants, voters will elect a bicameral legislature and local governing bodies.

Aristide's popular support has grown in recent weeks as voters have rallied behind his campaign promises to sweep away entrenched remnants of the Duvalierist regime and to usher in a new economic and social order. His appearances have attracted thousands, and he has broadened his backing among the urban poor, peasants, and rank-and-file labor.

Aristide's opponents generally have conducted lackluster campaigns, although his chief rival, centrist Marc Bazin, is gaining on him. Bazin believes he can exploit anti-Aristide sentiment among business, labor, and military leaders to win the presidency. Although a victory for Bazin in the first round appears unlikely, his well-organized coalition probably will win a legislative plurality.

Key Army officers remain committed to holding the election, despite their concerns that an Aristide presidency would lead to persecution of the Armed Forces. The military quickly arrested 12 rightwing thugs for bombing an Aristide rally last week.

The military's strategy stems in large part from fears that any move against Aristide at this time could prompt an uncontrollable popular backlash.

The balloting probably will proceed unless violence becomes so widespread that the 7,000-man military cannot contain it.

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