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PAGE: 1203

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF OCPAS LA BRIEF 91/232 FOR 02 OCTOBER 1991.

CONTENTS

I. HAITI: JUNTA SEEKING LEGITIMACY [REDACTED]

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JUNTA LEADER CEDRAS IS SEEKING TO LEGITIMIZE THE OUSTER OF PRESIDENT ARISTIDE, BUT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AGAINST THE COUP CONTINUES TO BUILD AND COULD ENCOURAGE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. [REDACTED]

CEDRAS CLAIMED IN A SPEECH LAST NIGHT THAT THE ARMY HAD TO OUST ARISTIDE BECAUSE HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INTERFERED IN MILITARY AFFAIRS, CONDONED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND WAS BECOMING A DICTATORSHIP. CEDRAS ALSO PROMISED THAT THE ARMY WILL SAFEGUARD THE LEGISLATURE; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE IS TRYING TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR A LEGISLATIVE VOTE ENDORSING THE COUP. [REDACTED]

MEANWHILE, CEDRAS REPORTEDLY HAS DIRECTED POLICE TO SHOOT INTO THE AIR TO DISBURSE "TROUBLEMAKERS," A POLICY HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE ANOTHER DAY OR TWO. HOWEVER, SOME SOLDIERS ARE KILLING ARISTIDE SUPPORTERS AND FIRING ON GATHERING CROWDS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS; 130 PEOPLE ARE NOW DEAD. [REDACTED]

ARISTIDE HAS CONDEMNED THE ARMY'S BRUTALITY AND VOWED TO RETURN TO HAITI. HE ACCUSED CEDRAS OF MASTERMINDING THE COUP AND HAS CALLED ON FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO CUT OFF AID. ARISTIDE REPORTEDLY PLANS TO APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO RESTORE HIS GOVERNMENT AT AN OAS MEETING TODAY. NUMEROUS FOREIGN LEADERS ALREADY HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR AID, AND SOME, SUCH AS VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, HAVE ENDORSED MILITARY INTERVENTION UNDER AN OAS AGREEMENT PASSED LAST JUNE. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: CEDRAS PRESUMABLY CALCULATES THAT ALLOWING THE LEGISLATURE TO FUNCTION WOULD CALM HAITIAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND HEAD OFF CALLS FOR A POPULAR UPRISING. NEVERTHELESS, MOST POLITICIANS ARE LIKELY TO BALK AT WORKING WITH THE NEW REGIME; A FEW ALREADY HAVE CONDEMNED THE COUP. MOREOVER, THE MILITARY KILLINGS, APPARENTLY AGAINST CEDRAS'S ORDERS, SUGGEST HE MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH

[REDACTED]
CONTROL OVER MIDDLELEVEL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED TROOPS TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANS. [REDACTED]

EMBOLDENED BY INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND ARISTIDE'S STATEMENTS, DOMESTIC OPPOSITION PROBABLY WILL INCREASE IN COMING DAYS, ESPECIALLY IF THE MILITARY EASES PRESSURE. THE NEW REGIME WILL LOSE MUCH OF THE \$450 MILLION IN FOREIGN AID PLEDGED TO THE ARISTIDE GOVERNMENT OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY ENSURES THAT HAITI'S ECONOMIC DECLINE WILL ACCELERATE. [REDACTED]

BIOS

HAITI: RULING TROIKA

COL. ALIX SILVA AND COL. HENRI ROBERT MARC-CHARLES HAVE JOINED BRIG. GEN. RAOUL CEDRAS IN GOVERNING HAITI. ALL ARE GRADUATES OF THE HAITIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND HAVE LONGSTANDING TIES AND PARALLEL CAREERS, FACTS THAT SUGGEST THE GROUP WILL REMAIN COHESIVE, AT LEAST FOR THE SHORT TERM. [REDACTED] REGARD THEM AS PRO-US; THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY HOPE TO PARLAY THEIR PREVIOUSLY COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH US OFFICIALS INTO CONTINUED AID FROM WASHINGTON. DESPITE THE ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT ARISTIDE, THEY PROFESS TO BE COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC RULE. [REDACTED]

COL. ALIX SILVA . . . REGARDED AS ONE OF HAITIAN DEFENSE FORCES' MOST COMPETENT, PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS . . . RECEIVED EXTENSIVE TRAINING IN US, INCLUDING DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE . . . MEMBER, ELECTION SECURITY COMMISSION IN 1990 . . . MADE COMMANDER, HEADQUARTERS DEFENSE FORCE BY ARISTIDE IN FEBRUARY; DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN JULY . . . AGE 41. [REDACTED]

COL. HENRI ROBERT MARC-CHARLES . . . [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
FORMER COMMANDER, AIRPORT SECURITY; DEPUTY COMMANDER, NAVY . . . SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT PROSPER AVRIL DURING 1989 . . . POSTED TO WASHINGTON AS MILITARY ATTACHE IN JULY THIS YEAR BY CEDRAS . . . AGE 41. [REDACTED]

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PAGE 1207

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