

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 22 DECEMBER 1993.

ITEM

1. HAITI: MORE PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS [REDACTED]

PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AND THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF ARE CONSIDERING NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH EACH SIDE IS LIKELY TO RESIST THE OTHER'S PROPOSALS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE INFLUENTIAL MEVS BUSINESS FAMILY IS ALSO PROPOSING TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN HAITI, PRESUMABLY AT THE MILITARY'S BEHEST. THE MEVS' PROPOSAL LACKS A SET AGENDA AND AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SHELVES SUCH KEY PROVISIONS OF THE EARLIER ACCORD AS THE DEPLOYMENT OF UN MILITARY TRAINERS AND A DEFINITE DATE FOR ARISTIDE'S RETURN. THE MEVS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS MAKE PROGRESS, ARMY CHIEF CEDRAS MIGHT RESIGN AND POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS MIGHT ACCEPT A TRANSFER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], CEDRAS AND HIS ADVISERS APPARENTLY ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE; THEY REPORTEDLY THINK THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WILLING TO PUSH ARISTIDE TOWARD A WORKABLE SOLUTION. ARMY HARDLINERS, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY STILL PLAN A VOTE IN THE LEGISLATURE TO STRIP ARISTIDE OF HIS EXECUTIVE POWERS UNLESS NEGOTIATIONS PRODUCE RESULTS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: FOR ARISTIDE, AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE NEGOTIATIONS PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE A WAY TO REGAIN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND TO DEFLECT MALVAL'S RECENT CRITICISM. ARISTIDE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL CALL THE MEVS' PROPOSAL PART OF THE MILITARY'S EFFORTS TO STALL HIS RESTORATION. ANY PROMISES BY CEDRAS OF MILITARY CONCESSIONS WOULD

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[REDACTED]

SUGGEST HE HOPES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL LIFT SANCTIONS AND
BACK AWAY FROM TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNORS ISLAND ACCORD
IN RESPONSE. IF TALKS DEVELOP, THE MILITARY PROBABLY WILL TRY TO USE
THEM TO INSTALL A GOVERNMENT UNDER THEIR CONTROL AND TO PRECLUDE
ARISTIDE'S RETURN; THE GENERAL STAFF PROBABLY ALREADY IS COURTING
CENTRIST FIGURES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]