

October 1, 1991

MESSAGE TO THE HAITIAN PEOPLE

"It is the lives of the people in Haiti that concern me"

General Raoul Cedras engineered this coup. His men have started to kill people and they will continue with the killing. They have in their possession, a list of people to be killed, people will drop like flies.

Do whatever is necessary to prevent any further loss of life.

The solidarity of the International community helped us to hold the elections of December 16, 1990. This solidarity can once again help to reduce the killings, help slow down this terror in Haiti. This solidarity will help the Haitian people free themselves of these soldiers of death.

The massacre will continue because these people (the coup leaders) are afraid. Our main concern must be the lives of the people.

I am not overtaken with the presidency; however, the Haitian Constitution together with the solidarity of the International community are our only deliverance from this terror machine. Otherwise, democracy will not be possible in Haiti.

The last Coup attempt made by Lafontant on January 6-7 1991, appalled the Haitian people as well as the international community. This most recent coup appalls everyone who believes in democracy.

The attempted Coup in the Soviet Union failed because the International community spoke up against those coup leaders. In the case of Haiti, the support of the International community can once again allow the Haitian Constitution to be upheld. This is the only way democracy will be possible in Haiti.

The future of Haiti is not the only thing at stake, at stake is also all the hard work and the sacrifice made by the friends of Haiti who risked a great deal to assist us in organizing the democratic elections of December 16, 1990.

Hold strong! I have confidence that we as a people will resume the road to democracy. We have lost this battle, but we have not lost the war. We must remain committed, we must maintain our solidarity and we must do whatever is possible to maintain that solidarity. The more we suffer, the more we continue to love one another; it is in these times of great pain that we can measure the depth of our love for one another, for our country.

Hold strong, don't give up! We have stumbled but we have not fallen.

Alone we are weak, together we are strong, united we are LAVALAS.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide
President of Haiti

This message was dictated to the Haitian Ambassador to Washington by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The President also says that he is in good health and doing fine.