

October 14, 1991

Ms. Mindy Welch, Chairman
Editorial Board
WPLG-TV/10
3900 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33137

Dear Ms. Welch:

We the undersigned organizations respectfully request the opportunity to respond to the editorial on Haitian issues presented by Channel 10 dated **Thursday, October 10, 1991** . Please advise us of any further action.

Gerard Metellus

K. A. P. A. M.

Patrick Baussan

K. I. L. I.

Farah Juste

Dizyem Depatman

Justin Manuel

LaFanmi Selavi

Antoine Garcon

Veye Yo

For any further information, please contact Rulx Jean Bart at 237-3576.

GM:msh

EDITORIAL RESPONSE

Channel 10's focus on regrettable incidents in Little Haiti overshadowed the peaceful character of the demonstration. By only crediting the Police Department's handling of the situation Channel 10 projected a false perception of irresponsible behavior by all protestors in general.

However, a more balanced outlook by Channel 10 would have given proper credit to the broad-based leadership in the Haitian community that not only intervened quickly to prevent further disturbances, but more importantly, organized continuous peaceful protests.

Channel 10 also implied that President Aristide violated the constitution. For the record, let us underline that:

- Jean-Bertrand Aristide overwhelmingly won the presidency on a platform which called for justice and social change in Haiti by putting an end to corruption and reforming public institutions, including the dreaded military.

- No burning of tonton macoutes occurred during the tenure of President Aristide; rather, criminals such as Roger Lafontant, the feared leader of the macoutes, were brought to trial.

This murderous Coup d' Etat derailed the democratic process which afforded the Haitian people the right to participate in the political life of their country.

Instead of echoing trumped-up charges of human rights violations in Haiti, Channel 10 should support us in denouncing the genocide and the imprisonment of thousands by the military, the muzzling of the press and the suspension of civil liberties. We seek Channel 10's support in calling for the immediate return of President Aristide to power.