

# Haitian Refugee Project NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 1 February, 1980

## UNCONTROVERTED EVIDENCE PROVES PERSECUTION OF HAITIANS RETURNED FROM U.S.

Testimony recently presented in a U.S. district court in Miami, in a Select Commission on Immigration hearing chaired by Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, and at a Congressional Black Caucus briefing has firmly demonstrated that Haitians deported back to Haiti from the U.S. face arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, torture or even death.

One witness testified that 40% of his fellow inmates at the infamous Ft. Dimanche from 1974-1977 were returnees from abroad and 14% were specifically those deported from the U.S. A former Macoute who left in 1979 testified that the Macoutes have standing orders to arrest returnees. Another, a military clerk, testified that he had seen official government documents authorizing and then confirming the execution of an entire group of Haitians deported from the U.S.

Affidavits from other Haitians who were imprisoned during 1979, but were fortunate enough to either be expelled or to bribe their way out and get to Canada, describe their first-hand contacts with Haitians who, within this last year, have been imprisoned, brutally tortured and left to die in their prison cells following deportation from the United States.

### MIAMI

STARVATION - NOT MALNUTRITION - IS NOW AN IMMEDIATE ISSUE FACING HAITIAN REFUGEES IN MIAMI ACCORDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

There are now between 8-10,000 Haitians involved in various stages of political asylum proceedings in the south Florida area. From December,

1972, when the first boat-load of refugees arrived, until approximately six months ago, the average number of arrivals was 500-1,000 per year. In 1979, however, that changed drastically. (See below for conditions in Haiti.) During June-October alone, over 1600 Haitians risked the 800 mile voyage. Estimates now are that new arrivals have come in at the rate of close to 100 per week in the last few months. Obviously, this has put a severe strain on the already limited resources in Miami.

Living under the constant threat of deportation by U.S. immigration officials who refuse to accept the fact of persecution in Haiti, the emotional and physical strains on the refugees are intense. There have recently been another suicide, another drowning at the hands of smugglers, several severe accidents and a household fire in which a number of unsupervised children died.

Although INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) has been under court order since July to reissue work authorizations for over 5,000 of the refugees, no more than @ 400 have in fact been reissued. Since all the refugees are still ineligible for any kind of federally funded food or social service programs, those lucky enough to find day work or farm work use their funds to assist the others. Most are literally packed 10-20 in living quarters designed for no more than 5-6 persons.

### HAITI

REPRESSION BECOMES EVEN MORE OBVIOUS

(NOTE: It is absolutely critical that our U.S. friends become knowledgeable about developments in Haiti. Without this knowledge, our advocacy ignores the essential issue of the "political" v/v "economic" motivation for the refugees' flight and their fear of return.)

## HAITI: REPRESSION BECOMES OBVIOUS...

In February, 1979, the regime showed an attempt at "liberalization" by allowing national elections to the legislative chamber, however it soon abandoned all pretense and increasingly resorted to the blatant use of force and intimidation to suppress the growing demand for human rights within the country. Opposition candidates declared themselves in every major district and the regime responded with beatings, jailings and/or exile and denied the candidates access to the media. People who campaigned for the opposition were arrested. The lucky ones escaped to Miami. Wildcat strikes sprung out around the country, but were soon put down by government troops.

Fearing that the technocrat faction which had advised Jean-Claude Duvalier since 1971 was losing control, the old guard ("dinosaurs") pressured him in April to reshuffle the Cabinet, drop Henri Bayard, the architect of the public relations-style "liberalization," and place more of their people in positions of power.

When the government then moved in May to censor the increasingly critical, Creole-language plays in the capitol, over 200 intellectuals risked reprisal by signing their names to a protest declaration. Weber Guerrier, the newly promoted Deputy Minister of the Interior (security), publicly swore to "rid the streets of these malcontents." (Guerrier was formerly commander of Ft. Dimanche and prior to this statement, was Director of Immigration.)

In June, three moderate groups announced the formation of the first official opposition political parties in 22 years. Throughout the country, the VSN (Volunteers for National Security) and other Macoutes, feeling their power threatened, made their displeasure known. At the July anniversary celebration of the VSN, they were back in the red hat and scarf uniforms of Papa Doc's "popular army." Jean-Claude heralded their arrival with a broadcast across the nation in Creole, so there would be no doubt that he had given them his presidential endorsement. In his speech, Jean-Claude told the country that, "We must straighten out all those who think that liberalization means free rein, who

understand democratization to mean anarchy, as if any one can do what they please."

In mid-August, Bernier Pierre, a Haitian resident of Canada who had gone home to visit his family, was arrested for "subversive activity," although evidence was never presented and he was never brought to trial. While in detention, he saw a returnee from Miami, a Aurelean Jeanty, who begged him to tell his family where he was, since he had not been allowed to contact them prior to his arrest upon arrival. Simultaneously, a Haitian employed by the Canadian development agency in Haiti who had first-hand knowledge of the slave trade of Haitians to the Dominican Republic conducted by the Duvaliers, and who had signed the anti-censorship declaration, was also arrested. International pressure secured the release of both Pierre and Frantz Voltaire, the development specialist, and, upon their arrival in Canada, they confirmed the existence of several well-known political prisoners they had personally seen in detention. Both men also stated that they had met prisoners who had been arbitrarily arrested after returning from abroad.

On August 29, a New York Times article praised the establishment of opposition political parties as a demonstration of "liberalization." On August 31, the Haitian government arrested the leaders of these organizations and, despite international pressure, one of them, Sylvio Claude, is still being held without charges or a trial.

September 22, 1979, was the 22nd anniversary of Duvalierist rule in Haiti and Jean-Claude used the occasion to once again flex his muscles. He charged that the national policies of Haiti would not be made "on the banks of the Seine, the Thames, or the Potomoc" and that the VSN were the back-bone of his regime and he wanted them to keep their guns in their hands. Shortly thereafter, he issued an official censorship law prohibiting any criticism of himself, his family, any Haitian government official or officials of a government friendly to Haiti. (Unable to criticize Duvalier directly, the press had given extensive coverage to the falls of Idi Amin, Somoza, and Bokassa.) Criticism of the economy or "popular

culture" -- as yet, undefined -- is also forbidden.

In November, thousands gathered in Port-au-Prince for a Human Rights League meeting which was disrupted before it even started by government thugs, including members of the Cabinet. Gerard Gourgue, president of the League, his wife and daughter were severely beaten and a U.S. embassy official who attempted to save them was himself struck. The Haitian government's response to the resultant international outcry was another Cabinet reshuffle, with more of the old guard placed in power, including General Claude Raymond, chief of staff under Papa Doc and the first military officer to hold Cabinet position in 22 years.

By the end of November, the Haitian government announced the formation of a Human Rights Office, placed, like its U.S. counterpart, in the Foreign Ministry and charged with public relations, not enforcement, responsibilities.

NOTE: It is important to remember that 99% of the information which reaches the international press regarding Haiti focuses only on the 10-15% of the population which is educated and rich enough to have access to such contacts and advocates. Human rights violations against the majority of the population come to our attention only in the context of their contact with the elite, as in the case of Jeanty, or through the testimony of former Macoutes and military clerks, who describe standing orders to arrest, or government documents confirming the execution of Haitians who have been deported from Miami.

## THE COURTS

FEDERAL JUDGES ISSUE FAVORABLE RULINGS, BUT U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RESIST

A. Testimony was given before District Judge King in Miami in November on the issue of continuing the stay of deportations for those Haitians already in asylum proceedings as of September, 1979. The stay was requested to last until the beginning of February, when Judge King is expected to make a ruling on our major due process lawsuit. (This

is the suit which charges the U.S. with innumerable human rights violations under their "Haitian Program" of "expulsion," which began in July, 1978, and resulted in deportation hearings at the rate of 100-150 per day, denial of access to attorneys, intimidation of counsel, etc.) The November hearing was designed to demonstrate the probability of "irreparable harm" if the Haitian asylum claimants were to be deported prior to an opportunity to fully and fairly present their claims. Testimony included that of military officials with first-hand knowledge of orders to arrest or execute returnees from the U.S. and affidavits from persons who had seen returnees from the U.S. incarcerated and suffering from torture wounds in Ft. Dimanche as late as spring, 1979. (Both the Haitian and U.S. governments have maintained that Ft. Dimanche has been closed since September, 1977.) On the basis of this evidence, Judge King continued the stay of deportations.

B. The fact that the administration has appealed Judge King's stay demonstrates their continuing effort to expel the Haitians and cover-up the repression in Haiti. In October, the government took an "emergency" appeal, seeking to overturn King's earlier order prohibiting deportations while he hears and considers evidence regarding political conditions in Haiti, persecution of returnees, and denial of due process rights. The appeal now also seeks an order prohibiting King from hearing further evidence or making findings of fact regarding political conditions in Haiti.

This appeal demonstrates that the Carter administration appears determined to make every effort to attempt to expel the refugees and prevent the courts and the public from fully considering evidence of persecution.

Three very conservative judges will hear this appeal and the refugees' lawyers are concerned. If the government wins the appeal, it is possible that they could begin to deport Haitians in great numbers in the near future.

C. Tragically, Judge King's stay of deportations does not cover new arrivals. Although we find an increasing number of

## THE COURTS: FAVORABLE RULINGS RESISTED

new arrivals staying in this country, we cannot ascertain whether this is due simply to the increase in numbers of people arriving, or whether, finally, INS is relaxing its policy of coercing new arrivals to agree to what INS calls "voluntary return." A State Department report on interviews with returnees they located in Haiti reveals that many believed that upon arrival in the U.S., they were faced with returning to Haiti "voluntarily" or spending the rest of their lives in U.S. jails. Recent affidavits from those who physically refused to leave indicate repeated instances of coercion, falsification of records and total disregard for internationally recognized civil rights on the part of INS personnel, both Haitian and U.S.

D. A major victory was won in December with the Sanon exclusion case. (The exclusion cases are those refugees picked up off-shore, i.e., to be "excluded" from entry, as opposed to those refugees who are picked up on-shore, who are deportation cases.) The ruling in this case ordered INS to inform new arrivals in English and Creole, both verbally and in writing, of their right to counsel, of the availability of free counsel, and of the existence and number of the Haitian Refugee Center. Negotiations will soon commence in Miami regarding the implementation of this order and the current INS method of releasing Haitians from detention.

E. A contempt charge has been filed against INS due to their failure to properly implement the court order on the work authorizations. There is mounting evidence that the local INS persists in discriminating against Haitians as a class, regardless of their personal situation, in all immigration procedures.

## THE CONGRESS

### A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT.

A. The Refugee Act of 1979 has passed both the House and the Senate. Although there are differences between the two bills, both provide the legal

basis for a refugee definition similar to that of the United Nations, namely, without the ideological and geographic restrictions which limited our previous U.S. definition to those fleeing communism or certain areas of the Mid-East.

THIS DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY HELP HAITIANS ! The U.S. retains the right to determine which of the world's 3-5 million refugees it will admit into the U.S. on the basis of "special" or "humanitarian" concern to the U.S. In other words, the legal basis is there, but it remains for us to generate the political motivation to categorize Haitians as refugees of "special" and "humanitarian" concern. Otherwise, the government will continue to propose no more than 2,000 out of the 50,000 world limit for refugees for those fleeing from all of Latin America and the Caribbean, allotting no more than a handful for poor, black Haitian refugees. (Samoza's supporters have already received better treatment than the Haitians.)

B. In addition, some of our friends have misunderstood the nature of Rep. Fascell's amendment to the House version of the bill.

1) This amendment still has to survive the Conference Committee, which is a combination of Senators and Representatives, charged with the responsibility of working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill before it is submitted to the President for final signature. Most would probably not support the amendment if they understood its full implications, because of the anti-immigrant feeling prevalent in Congress these days.

2) The amendment itself does not provide money for on-going social services to the refugees. It provides exclusively for reimbursement to state and local municipalities for services already provided (eg., primarily, health and education) to those refugees who entered prior to November 1, 1979. In other words, this amendment would neither feed, clothe, nor house the refugees. Its primary benefit is that it sets a precedent. That, however, may be the primary rationale for some members of the Conference Committee to oppose it. In addition,

5) The OAS (Organization of American States) is critical, not only because it helps to internationalize the issue, but also because the documents which it produces are of assistance in both our legal and political deliberations. In May of 1976, our first complaint was filed by the NCC (National Council of Churches) with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission against the Haitian Government. This has been up-dated several times, the latest being November, 1979. In June, 1979, the NCC filed a separate complaint, this time charging the U.S. with human rights violations against the Haitian refugees in this country. At this time, the Commission is preparing its report on Haiti, taking into account the findings of its trip to Haiti in August, 1978, as well as recent developments and new testimony. The findings of one or both these complaints is expected to be made public after the March meeting of the Commission.

6) Over 160 leading black political leaders from Florida signed a petition to President Carter requesting political asylum for Haitian refugees which was personally delivered to Roslyn Carter at the Florida Democratic Party Convention in November by three of the most active political supporters, Athalie Range, State Representative Carrie Meek and Commissioner Dr. Barbar Carey.

7) In addition to Rep. Lehman, who came out for asylum in June, Florida Senator Stone and Rep. Fascell recently declared their support for asylum.

8) The National Council of Churches' mailing to state councils of churches has resulted in resolutions of support and letters to Carter being generated from: Pennsylvania, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

9) Marie Poitier, chair of the Steering Committee of the Haitian Refugee Center, will be a guest speaker on the subject of Haitian refugees on February 26 in Dallas, where a Partners in Ecumenism regional conference will examine a range of immi-

gration and refugee concerns. The participants will be 350-400 black and hispanic ministers from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

10) The Synagogue Council of America has joined the numerous religious, labor, civil and human rights groups which have taken a stand in support of asylum and has offered assistance in our campaign.

## WHAT IS NEEDED?

### KI SA P'OUN FE?

OUTRAGE -- WELL PLANNED AND WELL DELIVERED

1) Everything we say or publish should include reference to what is happening in Haiti, as well as in Miami. Otherwise, we leave ourselves open to the argument that Haitians are "just economic refugees," since their poverty, their race, and their country of origin consistently and incorrectly appear to preclude them from consideration as "serious political refugees."

2) We must continue to activate our organizational networks. The Miami people will re-contact their people throughout Florida prior to the primary, but national organizations with Florida affiliates should provide their local people with as much support as possible. Particularly after the Florida primary, national organizations should encourage their nationwide constituencies to speak to this issue.

3) Public opinion concerns regarding this issue should be directed specifically to the President. This is in recognition of the fact that this is both a Justice and a State Department concern which can only be resolved by him. (It also helps that White House staff are election-conscious right now.) Copies of correspondence should be sent to Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Holtzman, and to us here in D.C.

4) We need to make better use of the media. Whenever we can generate policy statements on the issue, we need to release them to the press and send copies to the administration. Constituents should be alerted to send local Letters to the Editor.

## HAITIAN POINTS

### OF VIEW

(Prepared by members of the Haitian Task Force of the Haitian Refugee Project.)

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE HAITIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF THE REFUGEES

The Haitian community has been called upon to respond to a very important matter which does affect us Haitians and also will have a serious impact on the future of our country. The Haitian contribution, my contribution, your contribution, is first of all a patriotic duty. By contributing to this cause, in whatever way we can, my dear brothers and sisters, we are showing not only our concern for the cause of the refugees, but also we are performing an act of solidarity. We are all one people, from one land of which we should have been proud and of which I hope one day we will. Our brothers and sisters down in Miami desperately need our help. Let us join each other in unity to solve their problems, which are our problems, too. Besides being a patriotic duty, this help is also a humanitarian act. We need each other's help. The refugees are without jobs, without social services, without medical care. They are human beings facing all types of persecution. They are being jailed and sometimes deported back to Haiti like bags of potatoes where their condition will worsen and also their lives jeopardized. Let us perform a humane act. It is extremely important for the Haitian community. Let us gather together, form one big and strong family to bring our contribution to the refugee cause and to show our support and solidarity with their demands. Remember what Martin Luther King said: "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

#### LE HAITIAN REFUGEE PROJECT (HRP) LANCE UN APPEL À LA COMMUNAUTÉ HAÏTIENNE

"Réfugié économique": telle est la caractérisation en usage à l'INS (Service d'Immigration et de Naturalisation) se rapportant aux Haïtiens en Floride. Ce néologisme qui s'accompagne très bien du sophisme, est loin d'être une création

futile. Au contraire, il a été formulé en vue de servir de rationalisation à la politique de refoulement vers l'enfer duvaliériste instituée par l'INS contre les réfugiés haïtiens en Floride.

Les fonctionnaires idéologues du Département d'Etat des USA eux sont plus finauds. Ils prétendent n'être pas hostiles aux Haïtiens. Ils veulent être convaincus de la validité de la requête des réfugiés haïtiens en Floride demandant l'asile politique. Pour cela, il faut que le dialogue s'amorce: les représentants haïtiens auront une responsabilité semblable à celle des évangélistes ou des missionnaires: convertir ces fonctionnaires idéologues "bien intentionnés, impartiaux", à la cause des réfugiés haïtiens. En sus, il faudra une commission d'enquête pour investiguer sur le terrain, en Haïti, bien entendu, la situation des refoulés. Commission qui, pour maintenir son impartialité, devra être composée seulement de fonctionnaires de Département d'Etat ayant très peu, sinon aucune familiarité avec la situation haïtienne.

Toute similarité avec les Cubains, les Vietnamiens, les Kampuchéens (Cambodiens) est à rejeter. Le cas de ces derniers, nous dit-on, est réglementé par la loi en vigueur sur les réfugiés. Cette loi réserve un traitement spécial à ceux qui fuient un régime communiste. Bébé Doc, pour ces fonctionnaires idéologues, est un grand ami des USA, un leader responsable du "monde libre" qui s'est engagé dans une politique de libéralisation lente, mais sûre.

Assez souvent, on nous demande comment ces illettrés, ces pauvres hères puissent-ils avoir une conscience politique? Les exilés cubains, vietnamiens, sont des éduqués, des "gens cultivés", c'est-à-dire qu'ils savent distinguer entre démocratie et communisme. Autant de mythes que nous espérons dégonfler un de ces jours dans ces colonnes.

Il faut dire que certaines gens ont la mémoire courte ou sont complètement ignorantes de l'histoire. Il leur suffirait un soir d'interroger leurs pères ou oncles pour se renseigner du patriotisme et de la haute conscience politique manifestés par les paysans haïtiens vis-à-vis des "Marines" des USA beaucoup mieux armés qui, en armée

d'invasion, voulaient coloniser Haïti, il y a près de soixante ans.

En attendant que le Département d'Etat arrive à une position, l'INS continue de refouler les Haïtiens à sa propre discrétion. Des huit mille réfugiés vivant en Floride, seulement 80 personnes ont reçu l'asile politique. Le cas des autres a été rejeté ou se trouve en litige devant tribunaux.

Le cas des réfugiés haïtiens rappelle aussi celui de la mouche noire dans un verre de lait: il faut s'en débarrasser à tout prix. Les racistes de tout acabit sont inquiets. Ils ont déjà affaire à une population noire assez récalcitrante dont ils voudraient bien s'en débarrasser. Les Haïtiens vont donc aggraver la situation en augmentant le nombre de ces noirs qui, pensent-ils, ont fini de remplir leur rôle historique de pourvoyeur de main-d'oeuvre servile.

Telle est la situation à laquelle le HAITIAN REFUGEE PROJECT (HRP), en collaboration étroite avec le HAITIAN REFUGEE CENTER de Miami doit faire face. Pendant ses deux années d'existence, le HRP a enregistré des déceptions, mais la balance se trouve favorablement inclinée par l'amoncellement de ses réalisations positives; par exemple,

-- Nous n'avons pas pu convaincre Mme. Pat Derian, Secrétaire d'Etat adjoint pour les Droits de l'Homme, d'abandonner l'idée d'envoyer une Commission d'enquête en Haïti pour examiner la situation des refoulés. D'une liste de six cents noms compilée par l'INS, cette commission, après avoir questionné quatre vingt-six prétendus refoulés, a conclu que ceux-ci n'étaient l'objet d'aucune persécution politique à leur retour en Haïti. Cependant,

-- Nous sommes heureux de rapporter qu'un nombre croissant d'organisations et de personnalités politiques, sociales et religieuses des USA continuent d'apporter leur support à la lutte des réfugiés haïtiens. La liste est longue, mais nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de mentionner par ordre alphabétique les organisations suivantes:

- American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born
- The Congressional Black Caucus

- International Longshoremen's Union
- International Ladies Garment Workers Union
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- NAACP Florida Chapter
- National Alliance of Federal and Postal Employees
- National Council of Churches of Christ
- National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
- National Urban League

Nous autres de HRP, ne prétendons pas être la seule organisation responsable de la prise de conscience qui se manifeste dans l'opinion publique aux USA en faveur des réfugiés haïtiens. Cependant nous ne pouvons que déplorer la faible participation des organisations et des personnalités haïtiennes à cette lutte.

C'est pourquoi nous lançons un appel sincère à tous les Haïtiens pour qu'ils nous joignent dans cette tâche ardue, mais combien honorable.

#### L'EXPATRIATION DU PAYSAN

La population haïtienne est presque exclusivement paysanne. Environ 95%. Curieusement, ce taux démographique coïncide avec celui de notre analphabétisme légendaire. Seul producteur dans la nation, le paysan est privé de toute assistance. Depuis plus de cent quatre vingts ans, il s'attèle au rude labeur des champs, armé seulement qui d'une houe, qui d'une machette ou d'une serpette. Ses mains calleuses entretiennent les élites parasites, et l'Etat qui est souvent son bourreau. Proie de faux professionnels et de spéculateurs sans scrupule, il est de surcroît le souffre douleur des agents de la police rurale. Tel a été son lot dans presque toute notre histoire. L'esclavage ne fit que changer de forme.

Aux vexations et exactions de toute sorte qui accablent la paysannerie haïtienne s'est ajouté le fléau de l'érosion de la terre. Deux décennies d'insécurité dans les campagnes terrorisées par les tyranneaux du pouvoir central ont refoulé peu à peu les paysans vers les bourgs puis vers Port-au-Prince devenu une capitale pléthorique. L'expropriation subtile ou brutale en décime chaque jour un plus grand nombre, et à l'exode rural succède l'expatriation.

Voilà bien un phénomène tout à fait nouveau dans la vie du peuple haïtien. Sans doute, des paysans du Sud et du Nord-Oest s'en allaient-ils autrefois à Cuba où il importèrent la culture caféière à quoi ils s'employaient entre deux saisons sucrières. Sans doute, ceux du Nord-Est, du Plateau Central et du Sud-Est continuent-ils à traverser la frontière pour gagner des salaires dérisoires en République Dominicaine. L'un et l'autre sont des exceptions. Comme ses frères de toute la terre, le paysan haïtien est, en règle générale, sédentaire.

Aujourd'hui, c'est la nation entière- hormis les classes exploiteuses, tortionnaires et prévaricatrices-qui fuirait si elle en avait la possibilité. Telle est l'opinion des observateurs étrangers.

Que se passe-t-il? Qu'est-il advenu à un peuple si fier même dans ses éléments les plus humbles et les plus modestes, des paysans traditionnellement accrochés à leurs terres? Tout l'univers en connaît la cause, sauf les autorités américaines qui ont découvert soudain une nouvelle espèce migratrice: Le "réfugié économique", comme si ce pays

n'avait pas été peuplé par des hommes exerçant leur droit le plus fondamental, celui de survivre. "Réfugié économique et non politique" voilà l'étiquette, qu'on veut péjorative, collée aux fronts des hommes, femmes et enfants haïtiens qui débarquent sur les côtes de la Floride.

Ce "réfugié économique" n'est point le Cubain accoutumé, avant Fidel Castro de collaborer avec le capitalisme local ou étranger. Ni le Vietnamien dont le sol a été en grande partie infertile par la guerre la plus cruelle de ce siècle ou que hante la nostalgie des splendeurs factices de Saïgon.

En tout état de cause, ceux d'entre nous qui ont eu la bonne fortune de quitter notre pays dans des conditions passablement régulières n'auraient aucune excuse s'ils oubliaient leur solidarité nécessaire avec les compatriotes qui par un drame sans précédent dans les annales de notre patrie sont jetés sur les rives nord-américaines. Un grand devoir nous appelle. Répondons-y chacun selon nos moyens tout en obéissant en cela à l'esprit de fraternité qu'à la voix de notre conscience.

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