

ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DS-00 EB-00 VC-00
 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-00 VCE-00 AC-00 NSAE-00
 NSCE-00 OIC-00 OMB-00 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00
 P-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 ASDS-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0413
 INFO HAITI COLLECTIVE
 HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 001829

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/12/2020
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ASEC, HA
 SUBJECT: HAITI POST-DREAD WILME: MINUSTAH TAKES OFF THE
 PRESSURE

Classified By: Charge Douglas M. Griffiths for reasons
 1.4(b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary: Minustah has effectively abandoned the long-delayed assault of Cite Soleil. [redacted] B1
 that the surgical strike on Dread Wilme and his headquarters has put the gangs on the defensive and has brought them to the negotiating table. [redacted] indications that the B1
 gangs are re-organizing. (Reports from the [redacted] B1
 and satellite photos showing a large trench recently dug by the gangs may [redacted] on this score.) Similarly, B1
 Minustah has recently refused to support the stepped up HNP roadblocks, though [redacted] increase Minustah presence around the National Penitentiary following the return of escaped criminal Jean Claude Louis Jean. Pressure from the United States, Canada, France and the business community has yet to yield a change of posture from Minustah. [redacted] B1
 [redacted] to B1
 continue operations in Cite Soleil, even though [redacted] B1
 skepticism of the possibility for some sort of negotiated settlement. [redacted] may B1
 bring a welcome dose of discipline to Minustah's military operations. Continued pressure in New York would be helpful, but the [redacted]
 [redacted] accusations of human rights violations against B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
 CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE/CASE ID: 24 MAY 2006 200505081

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Minustah and [redacted] into action. End Summary

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Negotiation not Action

[redacted]

B1

3. [redacted]

B1

the gangs are coming to Minustah seeking a truce. [redacted]
[redacted] no guns had been turned over, and indeed, the
gangs were asking for an amnesty and not offering any
weapons. [redacted]

B1

B1

[redacted] abandon the planned attacks
on Cite Soleil because too many people would be killed, both
civilian and military. [redacted]

B1

[redacted]

[redacted] Cite Soleil that a huge trench had been dug
across a major road just 60 meters from the main road through
Cite Soleil. (Photo sent to WHA/CAR via e-mail.)

Paralyzed by Accusations of Human Rights Abuses

4. [redacted]

B1

[redacted] After nearly every Minustah operation, the
pro-Lavalas press in the U.S. and Canada publish charges of
wholesale human rights violations by Minustah troops. [redacted]
[redacted]

B1

operations on hold as a result. Minustah [redacted]

B1

has vigorously pursued every accusation against Minustah and has found no grounds for any complaint. [redacted]

B1

it was highly unlikely that Brazil would be unable or unwilling to investigate the case [redacted]

B1

[redacted] Minustah was being accused of killing more than twenty women and children. He reported that [redacted] provided the statistics and that they were "credible." [redacted]

B1

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[redacted] is extremely partisan, and that he needed to carefully evaluate the claims. [redacted]

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B1

[redacted] there were indeed rumors of a number of deaths in Cite Soleil, most attributed to retribution from Dread Wilme's gang against those thought to have collaborated with Minustah. [redacted] Minustah investigate the charges by examining the bullet wounds. Forensics would provide evidence to exonerate or pursue Minustah soldiers.

B1

5. (C) Port-au-Prince experienced a period of relative calm last spring after Ravix and Grenn Sonnen were killed. We are experiencing a similar lull in the amount of gunfire, although kidnappings continue apace. The HNP has covered the city with roadblocks over the past two mornings. Police [redacted]

[redacted] July 11 that Minustah had refused to cooperate with this anti-kidnapping initiative.

When queried [redacted] was unaware of the request and promised to follow up. [redacted]

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[redacted] commitment to increase security at the National Penitentiary after reputed drug financier Jean Claude Louis Jean was returned to prison.

6. (C) Comment: Minustah's passivity is frustrating. Minustah has the opportunity to bring much needed security and confidence to Port-au-Prince, but to do so it needs to keep the pressure on the gangs. Last week's events demonstrate that large-scale operations are not necessarily the answer. A series of coordinated deployments can be equally effective. It is sobering that less than a week after the Dread Wilme operations, gangs were able to dig a three-meter trench across a major artery in Cite Soleil. An [redacted]

B1

[redacted] to the troops sums it up best: "It is difficult to comprehend how this kind of trench could have been dug in [redacted]

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orders to participate in the attack on Dread Wilme. [redacted]
lamented that they took pictures and left. On the other
hand, the new [redacted] is much more effective.
Hopefully the new [redacted] will have the
determination to see his responsibilities through. End

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Comment

GRIFFITHS

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