

IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARA/NEA REARCS

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PHUM P 21

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INFO: HAFW (02) DCAR (01) DEP (01) OAS (01) AWP (01) PMO (01) HWG (03) PPC (01) PPA (01) RJ (01) PDAS (01) AV (01) EX (01) ECP (01) SCO (01)

----- 10/1333Z A2 RD (TOTAL COPIES: 019)

ACTION ARA-00 INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 C-01 DASY-00 DS-00 EB-00 EUR-00 OIGO-01 HA-09 H-01 FEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16 L-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 RP-10 RPCS-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 ASDS-01 RPE-01 SNIS-00 NISC-02 PMB-00 /055W

0 091810Z MAY 94 FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3801 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE DEPTJUS WASHDC IMMEDIATE JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE CJTF120 IMMEDIATE HAITI COLLECTIVE AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( ) RELEASE ( ) EXCISE ( ) DENY ( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C Sec. ( ) DOWNGRADE TO ( ) S or ( ) C ( ) DECLASSIFY ( ) DENY ( ) EXCISE ( ) DENY

STATE FOR ARA (ASSISTANT SECRETARY WATSON)

ARA/HWG (AMBASSADOR BROWN) ARA/CAR (AMBASSADOR LEONARD) HA (ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK)

JUSTICE FOR ICITAP/KRISKOVICH

JCS, CINCUSACOM AND JTF FOR J-3 AND J-5

AID/LAC - AA MARK SCHNEIDER

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PREF, ASEC, EAID, UN, HA SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR VISITS GONAIVES TO UNDERLINE U.S. CONCERN OVER MASSACRE

REF: (A) PAP 3543, (B) PAP 3592

SUMMARY

1. (U) AMBASSADOR TRAVELLED TO GONAIVES MAY 7 AND INSPECTED FIRST-HAND THE RABOTEUX AREA, SCENE OF AN APRIL 22 POLICE MASSACRE (REF A), FINDING NO SIGNS OF THE ALLEGED FIREFIGHT AT THE POLICE POST REPORTED BY THE MILITARY. IN MEETING WITH LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER, AMBASSADOR SUCCESSFULLY CONVEYED THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE U.S. OVER THE INCIDENT AND EXPRESSED HIS DISBELIEF AT THE MILITARY'S ACCOUNT. WITH THE BISHOP OF GONAIVES, AMBASSADOR SIGNALLED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CLERIC'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE MASSACRE WHILE GATHERING MORE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT. THE VISIT UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS FUND THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID TO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES. END SUMMARY.

ON THE GROUND AT SCENE OF MASSACRE

2. (U) UPON ARRIVAL IN GONAIVES, AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DATT, PROCEEDED TO INSPECT RABOTEUX, A SQUALID SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WAS THE SCENE OF THE APRIL 22 MASSACRE. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THE POLICE POST WHERE THE INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY BEGAN, AS WELL AS NEARBY HOUSES; NO SIGNS OF A FIREFIGHT, SUCH AS BULLET HOLES, WERE APPARENT. AMBASSADOR ALSO VISITED THE NEARBY BEACH WHERE SOLDIERS FIRED UPON AND KILLED A NUMBER OF UNARMED RESIDENTS. DURING THE VISIT, ACTIVITY IN RABOTEUX APPEARED NORMAL, WITH NUMEROUS PEOPLE IN THE MUDDIED STREETS AND MANY SMALL BOATS ON THE BEACH.

LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER'S STORY

3. (U) AFTER INSPECTING RABOTEUX, AMBASSADOR MET WITH COL. BELLONY GROSHOMME, MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE ARTIBONITE DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES GONAIVES. AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE APRIL 22 INCIDENT AND EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE KILLING OF UNARMED CIVILIANS. FOLLOWING GROSHOMME'S EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS INCREDULITY AT THE MILITARY'S ACCOUNT AND CLEARLY CONVEYED THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE MILITARY'S "EXPLANATIONS" OF THE UNPROVOKED SHOOTING OF SO MANY INNOCENT RABOTEUX RESIDENTS.

4. (C) GROSHOMME SAID THE ARMY HAD ACTED IN A DEFENSIVE MANNER, HAVING BEEN PROVOKED BY A TERRORIST GROUP THAT HAD FOR MONTHS INTIMIDATED RABOTEUX RESIDENTS AND SOLDIERS STATIONED THERE. GROSHOMME CLAIMED THAT ON APRIL 22 THE TERRORISTS, LED BY A MAN CALLED METAYER, AKA "THE CUBAN," BEGAN SHOOTING AT RABOTEUX'S MILITARY POST AND SOLDIERS WERE FORCED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. AFTER AMBASSADOR TOLD GROSHOMME THAT HE HAD FOUND NO SIGNS OF THE POST HAVING BEEN FIRED UPON, THE COLONEL BECAME EMBARRASSED AND CLAIMED HE WAS RELYING UPON A SUBORDINATE'S REPORT. GROSHOMME PUT THE DEATH TOLL AT FIVE OR SIX. RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR'S REPEATED AND POINTED QUERY

AS TO THE ALLEGED TERRORIST GROUP'S OBJECTIVE, GROSHOMME ANSWERED VAGUELY THAT THEY WISHED TO EMBARRASS THE HAITIAN MILITARY. GROSHOMME ALSO ADDED THAT THE TERRORISTS' GOAL WAS TO BE PERCEIVED AS PERSECUTED SO AS TO QUALIFY AS REFUGEES. GROSHOMME SAID THAT IF ONLY THE GROUP'S LEADER WERE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE U.S., GONAIVES WOULD BE CALM AGAIN.

GONAIVES' BISHOP REFUTES MILITARY'S ACCOUNT

5. (U) AMBASSADOR ALSO MET WITH MONSIGNOR EMMANUEL CONSTANT, BISHOP OF GONAIVES. AMBASSADOR THANKED THE BISHOP FOR HIS STRONG PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE RABOTEUX MASSACRE (REF B) AND ASKED HIM FOR HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE INCIDENT.

6. (C)

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7. (U) AMBASSADOR ALSO VISITED THE CARE PL 480 PROGRAM IN GONAIVES, OBSERVING WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS AND TWO FEEDING CENTERS (SEPTEL). POST PLANS TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO GONAIVES.

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COMMENT  
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8. (U) THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO GONAIVES SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED TO HAITIAN MILITARY LEADERS THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE U.S. REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, SUCH AS THE RABOTEUX MASSACRE, AND CLEARLY SIGNALLED SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC PROTESTS OF GONAIVES' BISHOP. THE VISIT ALSO UNDERSCORED THE UTILITY OF HAVING A HUMAN RIGHTS FUND THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID TO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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