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UPDATE ON DEPLOYMENT OF COMBAT-EQUIPPED U.S. ARMED FORCES TO HAITI

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AN UPDATE ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF COMBAT-EQUIPPED U.S. ARMED FORCES TO HAITI AS PART OF THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE (MNF)



SEPTEMBER 21, 1995.—Referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 21, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: One year ago, I provided the Congress with my initial report on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Haiti as part of the Multinational Force (MNF) authorized by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 940. I provided a follow-on report on March 21, 1995, which noted that the U.N. Security Council had determined that a safe and secure environment had been established in Haiti and that the number of U.S. forces in Haiti was being reduced in anticipation of the transfer of its security responsibilities to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). I am providing this update of events in Haiti, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed regarding U.S. support for the successful efforts of UNMIH to assist the Government of Haiti in sustaining a secure and stable environment, protecting international personnel and key installations, establishing the conditions for holding elections, and professionalizing its security forces.

Pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 975, the U.S.-led MNF made a smooth and successful transition to UNMIH on March 31, 1995. The U.N. Force Commander is Major General Joseph Kinzer, U.S. Army, who also serves as the commander of the U.S. component of UNMIH. The United States has assigned 2,400 military personnel to UNMIH while 12 other countries contribute 3,600 personnel, for a total UNMIH military force of 6,000. United States military personnel currently assigned to UNMIH are from the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana, and associated units.

In Resolution 1007 of July 31, 1995, the U.N. Security Council extended UNMIH's mandate through February 1996. As participants in UNMIH, U.S. military personnel have assisted in maintaining a secure and stable environment throughout Haiti during the past 6 months. In carrying out this function, they have also assisted the Haitian government by providing security during parliamentary elections on June 25, 1995, complementary elections on August 13, 1995, and runoff elections on September 17, 1995. In addition, they have provided logistics and transportation support for the election effort. The Presidential election is scheduled for late November 1995.

In addition to U.S. personnel assigned to UNMIH, 260 U.S. military personnel are assigned to the U.S. Support Group Haiti. In addition to supporting all U.S. personnel not assigned to UNMIH, the Support Group coordinates training exercises that involve the provision of humanitarian and civic assistance to the Haitian people.

These personnel are under U.S. command and follow U.S. rules of engagement.

There have been no serious security incidents or civil disturbances involving attacks on or gunfire by U.S. forces since my last report.

I have taken the measures described above in order to further important U.S. goals and interests, including the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti. I have ordered the continued deployment of U.S. forces in Haiti pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive, and in accordance with various statutory authorities.

I remain committed to consulting closely with the Congress, and I will continue to keep the Congress fully informed regarding this important deployment of our forces.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

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