

**WASHINGTON OFFICE ON**  
**HAITI**110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 310 202-543-7095  
Washington, DC 20002 FAX 202-547-9382**TEXT AND TALKING POINTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 18 AGREEMENT SIGNED  
BY JIMMY CARTER AND EMILE JONASSAINT**

Text of agreement in bold, response follows each point

1. **The purpose of this agreement is to foster peace in Haiti, to avoid violence and bloodshed, to promote freedom and democracy, and to forge a sustained and mutually beneficial relationship between the governments, people, and institutions of Haiti and the United States.**

Freedom and democracy cannot be "promoted" without the involvement of both the Haitian people and their legitimately elected government. This statement has many glaring omissions -- e.g., no reference to the restoration of democracy, no reference to a change in power, no reference to the legitimate, Constitutional government. Signed by a former U.S. president and an illegal Haitian president, the document serves to further legitimize the coup leaders who have committed some of the worst violations of human rights in this hemisphere. Enforcement of the agreement relies on the same military which exactly one year ago reneged on every one of its commitments in the Governors Island Accord.

2. **To implement this agreement, the Haitian military and police forces will work in close cooperation with the U.S. Military Mission. This cooperation, conducted with mutual respect, will last during the transitional period required for insuring vital institutions of the country.**

The Haitian military, who have left 5000 Haitians dead and hundreds of thousands displaced, were recently referred to by President Clinton as "thugs and murderers." Today, they are called partners, worthy of respect. Close cooperation with the military high command cannot create either the terms or the spirit of meaningful democracy. This agreement not only ensures the survival of the current Haitian military, which has brutalized an unarmed civilian population for the past three years, it actually legitimizes and uplifts it. The agreement is to be implemented by this same brutal military and the U.S., which created, trained and "professionalized" them in the first place.

3. **In order to personally contribute to the success of this agreement, certain military officers of the Haitian armed forces are willing to consent to an early and honorable retirement in accordance with U.N. Resolutions 917 and 940 when a general amnesty will be voted into law by the Haitian Parliament, or Oct. 15, 1994, whichever is earlier. The parties to this agreement pledge to work with the Haitian Parliament to expedite this action. Their successors will be named according to the Haitian Constitution and existing military law.**

The agreement refers to "certain military officers," never specifically naming General Cedras, Army Chief of Staff Biamby and Police Chief Francois. Nowhere in the agreement does it mention that the Haitian military high command must step down; it only implies that "certain military officers" will be given "honorable retirement." In a September 19 press conference, U.S. government officials falsely stated that a general amnesty was included in the Governors Island Accord, which in fact provided for *political* amnesty for those involved in the coup against the elected government. The current agreement calls for a *general* amnesty that will pardon members of the military for the thousands of atrocities -- murder, rape, torture -- committed since the coup. Since the military leaders are not scheduled to step down for nearly a month and since this amnesty clause exists, many Haitians fear a green light has been given to the military to eliminate its enemies without retribution. The U.S. seems to be dictating to another sovereign state the type of amnesty it should be issuing. Further, this amnesty is to be approved by a non-functioning parliament. Forty percent of the seats are contested as a result of the illegal "elections" staged by the de facto government in January 1993. Legislators who support Aristide are in hiding or exile; the parliament has not met because of lack of a quorum for many months.



**4. The military activities of the U.S. Military Mission will be coordinated with the Haitian military high command.**

Again, the agreement sanctions a close working relationship between the U.S. and the Haitian military, the same military that President Clinton described last week as perpetrators of horrendous human right violations.

**5. The economic embargo and the economic sanctions will be lifted without delay in accordance with relevant U.N. Resolutions and the need of the Haitian people will be met as quickly as possible.**

When the embargo is lifted, the U.S. has given away the only peaceful leverage and the one pressure the legitimate government and many Haitians have asked for consistently. In addition, since this is a U.N. embargo, the U.S. does not have the power to lift it unilaterally. To date, the embargo has never been fully enforced, allowing the Haitian military and the supporters of the coup to benefit and garner vast amounts of money. Some targeted sanctions should be enforced until the return of President Aristide. Now, with the lifting of such sanctions and the embargo, those in power in Haiti will again be able to benefit from pent-up demand and the sole control of goods entering the country.

**6. The forthcoming legislative elections will be held in a free and democratic manner.**

Promise of "free and fair elections" under the control of this military — and their new U.S. partners — is an exercise in hypocrisy, not democracy. Through the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and USAID, the U.S. has a record of meddling in poor countries' elections worldwide. Further, democratic elections are not possible without removing the current illegally elected legislators.

**7. It is understood that the above agreement is conditioned on the approval of the civilian governments of the United States and Haiti.**

When referring to the "civilian government" of Haiti, the agreement is not clear. Does this mean the Constitutional government or does this refer to the de facto government of Haiti? U.S. intentions to legitimize the coup government are crystal clear in the language chosen to refer to that government. In the first 48 hours, terms used by U.S. government officials to describe the de facto regime have moved from "civilian government" to "present government" to "government of Haiti." Another indication of U.S. legitimization of the illegal government is its total lack of consultation with the legal, Constitutional government in this matter.

Some very important issues are not addressed in the agreement and are addressed below:

**Human rights violations against Aristide supporters continue.** The U.S. military has no mandate to protect the Haitian people. Our contacts in Haiti reported widespread shooting on Sunday night following the signing of the agreement, even in neighborhoods where gunfire is not usually heard. At least two people were killed. On Monday, September 19, U.S. troops stood by as Haitian soldiers beat pro-Aristide demonstrators. General Cedras remains in control of the Haitian military and police; evidently U.S. soldiers will join the feared Haitian forces to patrol the very areas where FRAPH and the paramilitary terrorize the population.

**Treatment of refugees is still in question.** We are concerned about the status of Haitian refugees. No provisions exist for in-country processing, and outside observers cannot even visit the 15,000 refugees in detention at Guantanamo Bay to monitor conditions there. We fear that during the occupation the U.S. government will want to minimize reports of continuing repression and will obstruct attempts of victims to flee.