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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION  
CONCERNING HAITI

1. The present document is the fourth report I have submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 917 (1994).
2. On 18 September, the United States of America and the de facto authorities in Haiti reached an agreement which aims at fostering peace, promoting freedom and democracy, and avoiding violence and bloodshed in that country. The implementation of the agreement is based on "close cooperation" of the Haitian military and police forces with the United States military mission. It also refers to "an early and honorable retirement" of "certain military officers of the Haitian armed forces" when a general amnesty will be voted into law by the Haitian Parliament, or on 15 October, whichever is earlier. The agreement provides for the economic embargo and the economic sanctions to be lifted without delay in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. It also envisages that the forthcoming legislative elections will be held in a free and democratic manner.
3. On 19 September, the deployment of the Multinational Force began with the arrival of 2,000 United States troops in Port-au-Prince. Since then the deployment has grown rapidly and by 27 September was estimated to have reached 15,697 troops. The deployment of the Force has been peaceful, although an incident occurred on 24 September between some Haitian police personnel and United States Marines leading to 10 Haitian casualties. The troops of the Multinational Force are currently stationed in five cities: Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien and Hinche.
4. On 23 September, an advance team of 12 United Nations military observers was deployed in Port-au-Prince. The Chief Military Observer established necessary contacts with the Command of the Multinational Force and coordinated the deployment of the observers' teams in the areas of its operations. A team of observers visited Cap-Haïtien and inquired about the incident which had occurred there on 24 September. The observers also monitored the return of 221 Haitian refugees from Guantánamo Bay. The operations of the United Nations military observers are proceeding without incident. The rest of the advance team authorized by resolution 940 (1994) will be deployed in Haiti shortly.

5. On 26 September, the United States announced the suspension of all unilateral sanctions against Haiti, except for sanctions affecting the military leaders and their immediate supporters, and encouraged other nations to take similar action. On 27 September, the Government of the Dominican Republic stated that it was preparing to reopen its border with Haiti. On 25 September, President Aristide had stated that the full restoration of constitutional order would be achieved in the next 21 days and called upon the Security Council to take the necessary measures to rehabilitate the communications and information systems in accordance with the provisions of resolution 841 (1993). President Aristide also called for the immediate easing of sanctions, while maintaining the measures specifically targeted at those obstructing the restoration of democracy, and for an increase in humanitarian assistance and a speedy distribution of aid.

6. President Aristide convened an extraordinary session of the Haitian Parliament on 28 September to consider draft legislation on an amnesty. Security measures were taken by the Multinational Force to prevent the illegally elected parliamentarians from gaining access to the Parliament.

7. The delivery of humanitarian assistance has continued in spite of problems of security and access. It is expected that the presence of the Multinational Force and the lifting of unilateral sanctions will permit a rapid expansion of the programmes to reach all those in need in all parts of the country. However, incidents have occurred recently involving looting of two United Nations warehouses as well as non-governmental organizations' storage of food in Cap-Haïtien and Port-au-Prince. Consultations are taking place with the Multinational Force in order to ensure security for storage and transportation of food. Liaison mechanisms have been established with the United States military. A number of agencies are reinforcing their staff in view of the strengthening of the programmes. Consideration is being given to a new United Nations/Organization of American States appeal for humanitarian activities. A team has been dispatched from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to assist in the current humanitarian operations and to develop long-term programmes.

8. Regarding the international Civilian Mission, I intend, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, to redeploy the core group of observers currently in Santo Domingo as soon as their security is ensured. On 22 September, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States to take, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the necessary measures for the return of the International Civilian Mission, and to present such recommendations as he finds appropriate for the enhancement and, if applicable, modification of the Mission's mandate during the reconstruction period, in keeping with the resolutions of the ad hoc Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on Haiti.

9. As I have already informed the Security Council, I accepted the resignation of Mr. Dante Caputo as my Special Envoy for Haiti on 19 September and thanked him for his tireless efforts. On 23 September, after consulting President Aristide, I appointed Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as my Special Representative for Haiti with immediate effect.