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The man that is leading the coup d'etat in Haiti was born in New York and holds an American passport. For the life of me, I do not understand what an American, born in New York, with a passport, is doing starting a coup d'etat in another country. Mr. Andy Arpaid, Jr., not only holds an American passport; he owns 15 factories in Haiti, sweatshops.

Unfortunately, we cannot continue. We will continue this at another time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA MUST STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, my constituents have watched the escalating violence in Haiti with increasing alarm. Their alarm is caused not just by the brutality and the chaos of the revolt, but by this seeming lack of resolve of our own United States Government in confronting this threat to democracy in our own backyard.

While the President has responded admirably in dispatching envoys to

seek a negotiated solution, I remain concerned that this push for dialogue is not matched by equal resolve to prevent the violent overthrow of a democratically elected government. If the Bush administration turns its back on the democratically elected government of Haiti in this crisis, the President will lose any and all credibility he has on preserving the rule of law.

By now, there should be few illusions about Jean Bertrand Aristide. He is not a paragon of virtue. He deserves an equal share of the blame, along with the legitimate opposition in Haiti, for the political gridlock which has paralyzed Haiti for years and prevented both political maturity and economic growth. But he remains a democratically elected leader, one of the few in Haiti's two violent centuries of independence. To turn our back on him would be to turn our back on the values America was founded upon, the values which have guided our foreign policy from Jefferson through Wilson, through Truman, through Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Haiti's political deadlock is no excuse for violent hooliganism. The forces creating violence in Haiti today are opponents of democracy. If President Bush fails to support the elected government against violent hooligans, the United States will forfeit its role as the leader in this hemisphere. How can our government lead in advocating for democracy in Cuba when we will not raise our voices for democracy just a few miles away in Haiti?

The President's initial efforts have so far been positive; but I fear that without firm resolve, backed by a credible threat of repercussions, America risks losing her credibility as an advocate for democracy. The President needs to be more forceful in stating that he will not accept the violent overthrow of the Aristide government and that we remain adamant that we will only accept a peaceful, negotiated solution to this crisis.

The President has outlined a bold vision for expanding democracy, freedom, and the rule of law throughout the world. But if the President will not even defend democracy in our own hemisphere, he will expose his vision as little more than empty posturing.

I urge the President to take action to prevent the violent overthrow of the Aristide government and to preserve America's leadership role in fighting for democracy and the rule of law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus' Haiti Task Force to urge immediate action to assuage the political crisis that we see in Haiti.

I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Powell dated February 17 urging a more forceful effort to quell insurgents and to maintain democracy and respect for the rule of law in the region. Haiti has long been suffering with dire economic conditions and the devastation of HIV/AIDS. But now, Haiti has reached a state of crisis. To date, more than 60 people have been killed in the rebellion that is quickly escalating to a civil war.

Humanitarian aid and military assistance are needed now given the threat that demonstrators may thwart the delivery of food and other relief items.

I and the other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have consistently supported an active role for the United States in providing humanitarian and military assistance to Haiti. Many other Members of the House and Senate have expressed a willingness to support more engaged and aggressive peacekeeping activities to prevent a full-scale civil war so close to our border and to head off the large exodus of refugees to our shores that it might precipitate.

Secretary Powell made a statement earlier about Haiti, committing the United States to working toward a political resolution to the situation in Haiti. However, he expressed his concern that the "enthusiasm" does not exist for the United States to take a stronger approach.

It may be necessary to use more forceful means in the short-run to prevent a humanitarian disaster. The United States must act on its commitment to upholding the constitutional process and the rule of law as the optimal way to maintain civil stability and respect for human rights in that region. We should support the proposal adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Nassau as a viable option to restore peace.

As we work with the government of Haiti to explore the role of the international community in averting civil war, we must also start to look beyond the current crisis. For example, Haiti continues to be in dire need of food aid and medical assistance. The current unrest has already set off an exodus of refugees; and uncertainty regarding the timing and fairness of the next elections is further promoting suspicions and instability. The United Nations has great experience in handling such issues. Even as we concentrate on quelling the violence, we must also think in terms of promoting peace and stability in the aftermath.

Operation Iraqi Freedom provides a strong model of what we should not do. Without reliable or corroborated information, we initiated aggressive war efforts and amassed large war-related expenses and lost lives of our brave young men and women. Former United Nations weapons inspector David Kay has testified to the fact that there have not been, nor