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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. HASTINGS of Washington].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 3, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICHARD "DOC" HASTINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for 5 minutes.

A THIRST FOR VENGEANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Presidents Clinton and Aristide celebrated the very welcome end of the United States mission in Haiti in a very beautiful ceremony with warm congratulations, white doves and all. It was a wonderful photo opportunity and a good moment, especially, a good time to thank our troops who did an excel-

lent job. Again, one more time, our uniform forces have earned the respect and gratitude of the American people, each and every one of us. I hope, frankly, that those folks who are down in Haiti on that long mission are now scheduled for some R&R; they certainly earned it.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help contrasting this with the harsh images of Madam Bertin, mother of four, organizer of a democratic opposition movement, savagely slaughtered in her car just before President Clinton's visit in what was clearly a political assassination, and a very brutal one, a murder our Pentagon has said is unquestionably linked to high level Aristide officials. Just one event, it stands out as a representation of things that are still in the making in Haiti regrettably: The vengeance that abides in some members of Haitian society and the still dangerous mission we have asked the thousands of American troops we still have there as part of the U.N. mission. I understand we have scheduled to have 2,500 American troops staying there until February of next year, possibly even some talk of them staying beyond that. In the meantime we still have more than 2,500 there as they withdraw and we assess the situation.

Mr. Speaker, Samuel Berger, our deputy national security adviser, maintains the real problem in Haiti these days is crime and it is, "at a level probably less than most cities around the world and in the United States." I am not sure that is a satisfactory standard and I am not sure that is a satisfactory explanation, because we are not talking about simple crime. What we are talking about seems to be a very deliberate campaign of vengeance against the non-Lavalas members of the Haitian political class at a time when they are gearing up for parliamentary elections and Presidential elections and it is a campaign that is being waged by

the Lavalas apparently with hired assassins, vigilante squads, and possibly even commandos operating under a shadow government of Rene Preval.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious business. People are getting killed and it is very anti-democratic business and we have just sacrificed a lot of taxpayers' money putting our armed services in harm's way to try to nourish democracy in that country.

In today's Washington Post, Robert Novak outlined some particularly disturbing items. We were told there is a hit list now of 30 people, 2 of whom have already been assassinated. We also know there is a second list, which seems to overlap the first, of people who are not permitted to leave Haiti. In other words, there are people in Haiti bent on vengeance who are going to run a canned backyard hunt. They are not going to let him get away, they are going to run him down and kill him.

In fact, the roughest seas may lay ahead as the wave of election cycles, the June to December period, arrive. On the eve of the President's visit, Human Rights Watch issued a report that points to the risks: "Political tensions are increasing and far from having brought stability, the U.S. led force can point only to a fragile security that impending parliamentary and presidential elections may rupture." Indeed, that is the fear.

Mr. Speaker, the new U.N. mission commander, who is U.S. General Kinzer, has already said he will be unable to answer the call for security for candidates and polling booths because, as he noted, "I don't have enough soldiers to do that."

What is the mission of the United Nations force in Haiti today? Good question. Generally it is to maintain order. Do they have the resources? Another good question we know that plan to spread fewer troops and less equipment

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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