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NOTE: The President spoke at 9:28 a.m. at Warrior Base. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. George A. Fisher, USA, Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division.

Remarks in an Arrival Ceremony in Port-au-Prince

March 31, 1995

The President. President Aristide, Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished guests, and citizens of a free and democratic Haiti, *Bonjour*.

I am deeply honored by President Aristide's invitation to speak with you today. In the many months we have known each other I have learned firsthand of President Aristide's tremendous courage. His strength in the face of great challenge reflects the unbreakable will of the Haitian people. We respect him as the President you elected freely and fairly and for his leadership of all Haitians since his return.

Today, we come together as friends. Today, once again, we give life to the ideals of democracy, justice, and freedom. Today, we celebrate the restoration of democracy to your country. Never—never again must it be stolen away.

For centuries, the Haitian people have known little more than blood and terror. You have been robbed of opportunity and deprived of basic rights. Your children have grown up with too much violence. From Cite Soleil to the smallest village in the farthest corner of your land, you have sacrificed much in your quest for liberty. Now you stand on the brink of a new and more hopeful time. Now you have a chance to make real the dreams of those who liberated your nation nearly 200 years ago.

The tasks ahead will not be easy. Democracy does not flow naturally like the rivers, and prosperity does not spring full grown from the Earth. Justice does not bloom overnight. To achieve them, you must work hard, you must have patience, you must move forward together, with tolerance, openness, and cooperation. I believe you can do it, for as President Aristide has said, your challenge is great, but your will to succeed is greater.

Your democracy will be maintained and strengthened by free elections, and respect for the rights and obligations enshrined in your Constitution. Your government, the United Nations, and the United States will do all we can to guarantee free, fair, and secure elections, first in June and then in December. We know from experience that when elections are free, fair, and secure, you will participate. That is what democracy requires of you, and we know you will do it.

Your nation has been stripped bare of many of its natural resources. But the most important of these resources, you, the people, have survived with dignity and hope. As the proverb says, "*Espwa fé viv*."

Now you have a chance to come together to make the rice fields come alive and harvest the corn and millet, to build the schools and clinics that promise a better future for your children. We, your neighbors, your allies, and your friends, will support your efforts to create jobs, to attract investment from beyond your borders, and to rebuild and repair your injured land.

In a few months, the program will begin to pave the 1,000 kilometers of your roads. And later this year I will send the American Peace Corps here to help to organize the planting of millions of trees. As the roads are built and the trees are planted, thousands of you will have jobs. As you begin this work, I urge your country men and women who fled the terror to return and to help you to rebuild your land and theirs.

Economic progress will demand much patience. But we will stand with you as you tackle the hard and sometimes painful work ahead. *Men anpil chay pa lou*.

There will be times of great frustration as you build your democracy and move toward prosperity. But today, Haiti has more friends than ever before. And so once again, I urge each and every citizen of this nation to come together in this spirit of unity that President Aristide has so eloquently promoted. I can do no better than to repeat his words, "Say no to vengeance, no to revenge, yes to reconciliation."

[*Inaudible*]—take the law into their own hands. Each of you must choose, as most of you have already chosen, to build up, not tear down. I congratulate you for the patience you have already shown.

History records that two centuries ago on the eve of your independence, and during my nation's Revolutionary War, more than 500 of your ancestors came from Haiti to my country and died in the fight to bring the United States to life. More than 200 years later, the United States is proud to have helped to give you a second chance to build your democracy and bring life to the dreams of your liberators.

I have been told that, throughout your land, our soldiers, our diplomats, and our volunteers have been greeted by hand-painted signs with three simple words. These words go right to their hearts and to mine. They are: Thank you, America. Now, it is my turn to say, *Merci à Haiti.* Thank you for the warmth of your welcome and your support for all who have joined hands with you. Thank you for embracing peace, for denying despair, for holding on to hope. Because of your courage, because of your determination, freedom can triumph over fear.

Today, we stand in the warm, bright light of liberty, and together, we can say, *Kenbé fèm, pa lagé. Kenbé fèm, pa lagé.*

Merci, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. at the National Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 27

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister James Bolger of New Zealand.

March 28

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA. Later in the afternoon, he attended a reception for participants of the Economic Conference at the residence of Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia.

March 29

In the evening, the President traveled to Tallahassee, FL.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tommy Edward Jewell III as a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

The President announced his intention to designate Shirley A. Jackson to be Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission following her confirmation as a Commissioner.

March 30

In the morning, the President went to the State Capitol where he met with direct loan recipients, police officers, and welfare-to-work mothers in the Senate President's Conference Room. He then met with Democratic leadership members in the House Rules Committee Room.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Tampa Bay, FL. He traveled to Palm Beach, FL, later in the afternoon.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth H. Bacon to the post of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Zvi Kestenbaum and to appoint Bernyce Adler, Fred Hochberg, and Lee Seeman as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

The White House announced the President has asked the Intelligence Oversight Board to conduct a Government-wide review of the allegations surrounding the 1990 death of Michael Devine and the 1992 disappearance of Efrain Bamaca Valesquez in Guatemala.

March 31

In the morning, the President traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

In the afternoon, the President went to the National Palace where he met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Following a reception, he attended the Unit-