

Clinton's Haitian policy is a genocidal disaster

by Valerie Rush

Warships from the United States, Canada, France, the Netherlands, and Britain are currently ringing the nation of Haiti in the Caribbean—the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world—under orders to prevent all shipments of fuel and other vital supplies from reaching the country until its leaders agree to the return of genocidal psychopath Jean-Bertrand Aristide as their President, and to the second occupation of their country by foreign troops this century.

Threats of economic sanctions have also been issued against the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and is almost as poor, if the Dominicans do not stop goods from crossing their border with Haiti. The prospect that hundreds of thousands of Haitians may starve to death in the near term as the result of the naval embargo has not deterred the Clinton administration from its resolve to impose its mockery of “democracy,” at all cost. This is United Nations “globaloney” gone berserk.

Haitian Army Commander Raoul Cedras appealed to U.S. citizens in an Oct. 17 interview with Cable News Network to understand that “to take sanctions against a poor black population” is no solution. “The problem is not always as it is presented,” he said, asking that the military be allowed to defend itself from the flood of unsubstantiated charges against it. “It is an elementary principle in democracy that the one accused have the possibility to defend himself. . . . We didn't have American lawyers or international lawyers,” as does Aristide, he noted.

While President Clinton bulls ahead with a policy that even his friends are beginning to concede will lead to disaster, there is a growing chorus of voices in the United States urging

Clinton to pull back from the brink before it is too late. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) has stated that he is opposed to risking American lives in order to reinstate Aristide. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) gave a speech in the Senate denouncing Aristide's proclivities for violence, and noting that “the Clinton administration's pursuit of a globalist agenda puts American forces in jeopardy without competent command—all in the name of ‘nation building.’” Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) urged the Clinton administration to rethink its Haiti policy.

Aristide's mental illness history

The Central Intelligence Agency has leaked a report prepared when Aristide was ousted in September 1991, which describes the man—repeatedly presented by the U.S. media as “a mild-mannered, soft-spoken priest”—as certifiably psychotic, and given to “excesses.” Journalist Daniel James, known for his links to the U.S. intelligence community, wrote in the *Washington Times* of Oct. 21 that civil war is imminent if Aristide returns. “Does the administration have any plan to deal with civil conflict in Haiti? If so, nobody has heard of it.”

James insisted that the priority ought to be to restore order, not Aristide, to Haiti, and concluded that “the weird mix of neo-isolationism and neo-interventionism that seems resurgent in Washington is self-defeating. So are the fanciful multinational scenarios our leaders have been toying with.”

The Washington-based media watchdog agency Accuracy in Media issued a report in August which warned that “American troops risk being drawn into violent civil war in support of a President whose nine-month [sic] reign was marked by unmitigated terror, including the ‘necklacing’ of

political opponents and the use of street mobs to intimidate the Haitian parliament and court." A high-ranking Vatican official told the media during the week of Oct. 18 that they were "not too thrilled" with the return to power of a man who openly advocates violence, and that the Holy See was opposed to the blockade of Haiti. "The only people who are going to suffer from that are the people who are already suffering."

Needless suffering

The blockade has already begun to kill people. With people out of jobs and money, with what little industry there was on the island strangled by the previous embargo, and with the ability to transport food and other vital goods to the interior of the country immediately threatened by the fuel embargo, there is little or no hope for many of Haiti's 6.5 million residents. The Oct. 18 *Boston Globe* reports that 850,000 Haitians already rely entirely on foreign aid for meals. Medical officers estimate that at least 10,000 people died as the direct result of the last embargo, with hundreds of thousands of others seriously weakened. The *Christian Science Monitor* said that Haitian agriculture is only capable of supporting one-third to one-half of the country's population.

"It's going to be a nightmare," said Chris Conrad, director of the CARE relief program in Haiti. Conrad told the *New York Times* that in Haiti's arid northwest, many people—especially women and children—are barely clinging to life after two years of isolation. "Anything that comes down the pike at this point, be it measles or diarrhea or upper respiratory disease . . . the kids up there who have very little resistance already are just going to be wiped out."

The real tragedy is that Clinton and many others who share the United Nations' "globaloney" policies, are so deluded that they actually appear to believe that Haiti will eventually "give in" to their demands if the pressure is kept up long enough. But history tells another story. The fact is that Haitians are fiercely proud of the fact that they gained their independence by defeating both British and French imperialist armies of occupation; nor have they forgotten the humiliation of a 19-year occupation by U.S. Marines sent by Woodrow Wilson in 1915 allegedly to "establish constitutional government" and "protect American lives" (see article on p. 68).

The American people are also being fed a pack of media lies about what is really at stake in Haiti. First and foremost, they are being lied to about who Jean-Bertrand Aristide really is. Far from being a "populist reformer," "a democrat who seeks to improve the lot of his people," or "a defender of civil rights," Aristide in fact is a mentally unbalanced product of the Marxist Theology of Liberation cult, who has built up a violent Jacobin-styled movement by promoting the "virtues" of backwardness, voodoo, and hatred of "the rich" and the United States (see profile).

This former Catholic priest has deployed his mobs to

burn down churches and beat and humiliate the Vatican's own ambassador. He has defended the barbaric practice of "necklacing" one's political opponents—placing a gasoline-filled tire around the victim's neck and setting it afire. While in power, he formed a private army of thugs and assassins rivaling, and even incorporating members of the hated Tonton Macoutes of the Duvalier dictatorship.

Flouted the Constitution

It was Aristide's advocacy of violence, as well as his repeated flouting of Haitian constitutional law, that led to his ouster. Not only had he antagonized the Haitian military by attempting to bypass their functions through creation of a private, parallel army, but he had also antagonized a large percentage of Haiti's political and business classes who saw their country being turned into a personal fiefdom under mob rule. Faced with trial on charges of abuse of power, Aristide chose resignation and a gilded exile abroad.

How did this madman become "a friend of the U.S.," in whose cause the Clinton administration today appears willing to send American troops into a maelstrom of chaos and bloodshed? The answer is chillingly simple: As President, Aristide had agreed to accept International Monetary Fund (IMF) dictates, even while knowing that the free-market, budget-cutting austerity conditionalities of the IMF would turn Haiti—already sending human blood abroad as one of its main exports—into a cemetery.

'We have erred'

Although the Clinton administration is reported to be seeking some face-saving means of avoiding a full-scale U.S.-led invasion, Haiti's neighbors in the Dominican Republic have not hesitated to acknowledge that an altogether different approach must be taken. "We have erred," said Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer on Oct. 15, when he called for the killer embargo to be lifted. "What interests Haiti, as with all countries of the world, is the maintenance of peace, the stability of its institutions, its material and spiritual progress." But each day, said Balaguer, "peace is further off."

That same day, a columnist for the Dominican newspaper *Hoy* warned that "the United Nations is sponsoring an unnecessary tragedy." Many Haitians cannot read, he wrote, but "they know the history of their independence." They also know that the United States invaded in 1915 under excuses as ingenuous as the claim today that the U.N. will only send doctors and engineers to impose its rule. When the United States finally withdrew in 1934, U.S. soldiers were being beheaded by guerrillas under "the banner . . . that foreigners should be eliminated with poison and fire." If the U.N. moves in, sooner or later, the columnist warned, it will face the same treatment. He urged that aid be made available to help create a million new jobs, and to provide better food, health care, and education for Haitians.