
Background to the News

The invasion of Haiti: a Bush administration policy

by Valerie Rush

Over the last months, as the Clinton administration edged closer and closer to invading Haiti, the public has been treated to the spectacle of George Bush, Henry Kissinger, and other advocates of British geopolitics all publicly “opposing” such an invasion in the most strident terms. Americans with a shorter memory span may not register just how outrageous and hypocritical this is. But *EIR* documented these facts at every step along the way, from 1991 to the present, as we summarize them in the brief chronology below.

The following conclusions emerge:

- It was the Bush administration that first decided to forcibly reimpose the unstable and murderous Jean-Bertrand Aristide on the Haitian people, as part of its support for the pro-terrorist São Paulo Forum, of which Aristide and his Lavalas movement are a part;

- It was Bush who imposed a genocidal economic embargo on that impoverished country;

- It was Bush who first drew up plans to occupy Haiti militarily; and

- It was Bush who proclaimed that it was a matter of “U.S. national security” to use the U.N. apparatus to impose limited sovereignty on the small Caribbean nation.

Bush bequeathed this entire disastrous policy package, lock, stock, and barrel, to Clinton when the latter took office in January 1993, and then set the incoming administration on auto-pilot for an invasion of Haiti in the medium term. And when Clinton, over the course of 1993, began to distance himself from this Bush policy and look for ways out of the Haitian trap, the Bush apparatus and its British-run allies in Hollywood and elsewhere came down on Clinton like a ton of bricks.

A two-pronged attack

In the critical period of March-April 1994, the Bush apparatus launched a two-pronged operation to break Clinton on Haiti policy:

- 1) Using the pretext of Clinton’s continued application of Bush’s repatriation policy toward Haitian refugees, Clinton was cynically smeared for being a “racist” by people like Randall Robinson of TransAfrica and members of the Black

Congressional Caucus, to force a policy reversal.

- 2) A promotion job was done on behalf of Aristide, to once again “sell him” to reluctant layers of the U.S. military and intelligence establishment, who accurately and publicly had denounced him as a psychotic and murderer. The key here was a study prepared by Bush-linked specialists at the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. War College, entitled “Reconciling the Irreconcilable: The Troubled Outlook for U.S. Policy Toward Haiti,” which, among other things, argued that Aristide’s “instability” notwithstanding, his restoration was essential to Haiti’s required “cultural revolution.”

Once the Bush-British crowd had achieved their objective of driving Clinton back onto the suicidal course of invading Haiti, they turned around and began attacking him for it!

Now, the United States stands poised to invade Haiti—thanks to George Bush.

Chronology of events

Sept. 30, 1991: The Haitian military ousts Aristide from power; Aristide eventually settles into exile in Washington, under the protection of George Bush.

Oct. 8, 1991: The Bush administration convinces the Organization of American States (OAS) to impose a total economic embargo against Haiti and recommend sending a “security force” toward reinstating Aristide. Bush’s Secretary of State James Baker tells the OAS that while the purpose of such collective action is to restore Aristide to power, “our interests do not stop there. . . . This is the hemisphere that is building a future of free trade from Alaska to Argentina.”

Three years later, Baker would tell the media that an invasion of Haiti to restore Aristide “is not in the national interest.”

Oct. 18, 1991: *EIR* publishes a feature article entitled “Bush Readies Invasion to Re-install Haitian Pol Pot.” The article describes Bush’s campaign to restore Aristide to power as a means “to turn the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere into the next new world order ‘test case.’ The plan is to use the Haitian crisis to replace national sovereignty

and national armies in the Western Hemisphere with a 'collective security' doctrine mandating supranational armed enforcement of International Monetary Fund debt collection and Pol Pot-style genocide."

December 1991: EIR News Service reports that the Bush administration is trying to force the appointment of Haitian Communist Party boss René Theodore as Haitian prime minister, over the opposition of the Parliament and Armed Forces.

February 1992: The Bush administration dubs Haitians fleeing the effects of its economic embargo "economic refugees," and proclaims them therefore ineligible for political asylum in the United States, as justification for a repatriation policy which is dubbed "Operation Racist Shield" by the *Miami Herald*.

Feb. 24, 1992: EIR News Service reports that Bush Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has been sent to tour Ibero-America to, among other things, start building support for a "collective military intervention" into Haiti. A Pentagon spokesman dubs his trip a Bush "military initiative for the Americas."

January 1993: William Clinton is inaugurated President of the United States.

July 1993: The Governor's Island Accord is signed separately by Jean-Bertrand Aristide and by Haitian military chief Gen. Raoul Cédras, whereby Aristide—under Clinton administration pressure—agrees to an amnesty for the Haitian military in exchange for Cédras's resignation. The U.S./U.N. embargo is temporarily lifted.

Aristide later reneges on the pledge when his allies inside the Haitian Parliament refuse to pass legislation approving the amnesty, and General Cédras therefore refuses to resign.

September 1993: Aristide calls on the United Nations to reimpose the embargo, which it does in October.

October 1993: The CIA leaks a profile of Aristide which it had prepared shortly after his September 1991 ouster from power, which portrays the man as suffering from severe depression and nervous breakdown, and which quotes from one neurosurgeon who worked closely with Aristide in Haiti, describing him as a "psychotic manic depressive." The report serves to encourage the Clinton administration to seek alternative solutions to the Haiti crisis.

Feb. 24, 1994: Clinton's special envoy to Haiti, Lawrence Pezullo, pressures Aristide to accept a broadened Haitian government, while President Clinton resists pressure to heighten the sanctions against Haiti.

March 1994: A full-page advertisement is taken out in several major U.S. newspapers by the lobbying group TransAfrica, headed by the British intelligence-linked Randall Robinson, and by various Hollywood, Jewish, and black organizations. The ad charges President Clinton with racism for continuing Bush's refugee repatriation policy.

March 1994: The Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College publishes a study for the Pentagon and other government agencies, which is subsequently adopted

as policy by the Clinton administration. It argues explicitly that Haitians were better off as a slave colony of France than at any other time in their history, and suggests that the restoration of Aristide be the start of a decades-long "wholesale cultural revolution" under foreign occupation.

The authors of the study include Gabriel Marcella, a leading contributor to the Bush project for dismantling the armed forces of Ibero-America, presented in the 1990 government-funded book *The Military and Democracy, the Future of Civil-Military Relations in Latin America*, which later became widely known as "the Bush Manual." Described as an adviser to the War College report is Luigi Einaudi, the man known as "Kissinger's Kissinger for Ibero-America," who was not only the architect of George Bush's Haiti policy as U.S. ambassador to the OAS, but was also one of the key forces behind the Bush Manual.

In his new book *Warriors in Peacetime: The Military and Democracy in Latin America*, Marcella describes his "intellectual debt" to British agents-of-influence Henry Kissinger and Samuel Huntington.

April 1994: TransAfrica's Randall Robinson begins a highly publicized hunger strike to force Clinton to end the policy of repatriating Haitian refugees, and go all the way with Aristide. Comparisons of Aristide to South Africa's Nelson Mandela begin to appear in the media, and Congressional Black Caucus members chain themselves to the White House gate to dramatize Robinson's cause.

April 26, 1994: Lawrence Pezullo is forced to resign and Clinton announces that he is "reviewing" his administration's Haiti policy.

May 4, 1994: Henry Kissinger writes a column calling Aristide unbalanced and opposing the invasion of Haiti.

May 8, 1994: President Clinton names former Pennsylvania congressman and former Black Caucus leader William Gray to replace Pezullo. President Clinton reverses his policy on repatriation of Haitian refugees, and transports all Haitian refugees picked up on the high seas to Guantanamo Naval base holding camps. Robinson ends his hunger strike.

In an interview to the press, former Haiti envoy Pezullo says, referring to Robinson, "We've got a new foreign policy man now. I don't know where he came from."

May 10, 1994: Clinton's Secretary of State Warren Christopher announces that the United States is urging other Western Hemisphere nations to join a supranational military force to enforce Haiti's transition to "democracy."

May 12, 1994: Former President George Bush calls on the Clinton administration to break with an "unreliable" Aristide and strongly opposes invasion of Haiti. The Bush crowd all suddenly discover Aristide's "volatile temperament, refusal to compromise, proclivity for violence," and urge Clinton to distance himself from the Haitian madman.

July 31, 1994: At U.S. insistence, the United Nations Security Council votes to authorize "the use of all necessary means" to topple Haiti's embattled military leadership and restore Aristide to power, effectively giving a green light for invasion.