Haiti: Establishing a new UN Support Mission in Haiti

Reproduced below is resolution 1063 of 28 June 1996 establishing the UN Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH). The mission has the task to assist the Government of Haiti in the professionalization of the civilian police forces. The mandate for UNSMIH was subsequently prolonged until 31 May 1997 by Security Council resolution 1086 of 5 December 1996.

In addition, reproduced below is the report of the UN Secretary-General of 5 June 1996 explaining the necessity to continue the international support in building up and training civilian police forces in Haiti. Accordingly the Secretary-General recommends to establish a new UN Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), which was subsequently authorized by Security Council resolution 1063 (see below).

Date: 28 June 1996


The Security Council,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions and those adopted by the General Assembly,

Taking note of the resolution of 31 May 1996 from the President of the Republic of Haiti to the Secretary-General of the UN (S/1996/431, annex),

Underscoring the need to support the commitment of the Government of Haiti to maintain the secure and stable environment established by the Multinational Force in Haiti (MFN) and extended with the assistance of the UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH),

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 5 June 1996 (S/1996/416 and Add.1/Rev.1),

Commending the role of UNMIH in assisting the Government of Haiti in fulfilling its responsibilities (a) to sustain the secure and stable environment which has been established, and (b) to professionalize the Haitian National Police, and expressing appreciation to all Member States which have contributed to UNMIH,

Noting the termination in accordance with resolution 1048 (1996) of the mandate of UNMIH as of 30 June 1996,

Noting the key role played by the UN civilian police, supported by UN military personnel, in helping to establish a fully functioning Haitian National Police force of adequate size and structure as an integral element of the consolidation of democracy and the revitalization of Haiti's system of justice, and, in this context, welcoming progress to establish the Haitian National Police,

Welcoming and supporting the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) in cooperation with the UN, and in particular the contribution of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), to promote consolidation of peace and democracy in Haiti,

Taking note of the resolution on the international presence in Haiti (S/1996/432 and A/51/164) adopted at the seventh plenary session of the regular session of the OAS which, inter alia, encourages the international community to sustain the same level of commitment it demonstrated during the years of crisis, and recommends that, at the request of the Haitian Government, the community maintain a strong presence in Haiti and extend its full support for strengthening the national police force and consolidating the stable and democratic environment necessary for economic growth and development, and inviting the further participation of the OAS,

Recognizing the link between peace and development and stressing that a sustained commitment by the international community and the international financial institutions to assist and support the economic, social and institutional development in Haiti is indispensable for long-term peace and stability in the country,

Welcoming the continued progress towards consolidation of democracy by the people of Haiti since the historic peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected President to another on 7 February 1996,

Recognizing that the people of Haiti bear the ultimate responsibility for national reconciliation, the maintenance of a secure and stable environment, the administration of justice, and reconstruction of their country,

1. Affirms the importance of a professional, self-sustaining, fully functioning national police force of adequate size and structure, able to conduct the full spectrum of police functions, to the consolidation of democracy and revitalization of Haiti's system of justice;

2. Decides to establish the UN Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) until 30 November 1996 in order to assist the Government of Haiti in the professionalization of the police, and in the maintenance of a secure and stable environment conducive to the success of the current efforts to establish and train an effective national police force, and supports the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the coordination of activities by the UN system to promote institution-building, national reconciliation and economic rehabilitation in Haiti;

3. Decides that UNSMIH initially will be composed of 300 civilian police personnel and 600 troops;

4. Welcomes the assurance that the Secretary-General will be alert to further opportunities to reduce the strength of the mission so it can implement its tasks at the lowest possible cost;

5. Recognizes that major tasks facing the Haitian Government and people include economic rehabilitation and reconstruction and stresses the importance that the Government of Haiti and the international financial institutions agree as soon as possible on the steps necessary to enable the provision of additional financial support;

6. Requests all States to provide appropriate support for the actions undertaken by the UN and by Member States pursuant to this and other relevant resolutions in order to carry out the provisions of the mandate as set out in paragraph 2 above;

7. Further requests all States to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established in resolution 975 (1995) for the support of the Haitian National Police, to ensure that the police are adequately trained and fully operational;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, including prospects for further reductions in the strength of the mission, by 30 September 1996;

9. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

Document: S/1996/416
Date: 5 June 1996

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 1048 (1996) of 29 February 1996, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for a final period of four months until 30 June 1996. The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 10 of that resolution, by which the Security Council requested me to report on the implementation of the resolution by 15 June 1996, including information on activities by the United Nations system to promote the development of Haiti. On 8 May 1996, as members of the Security Council will recall, my Special Representative briefed the Council on recent developments in Haiti.

2. The report also contains my recommendations with respect to the role of the United Nations in Haiti after the expiration of the mandate of UNMIH. These recommendations take into account the letter addressed to President Preval on 31 May 1996 by President Préval expressing his Government's wish for a continued international force for a further period of six months and my Special Representative's discussions with the Government about the country's needs for international support in the future. The Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti - Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, the United States of America and Venezuela - have also made a valuable contribution to the elaboration of the recommendations.

3. On 5 March 1996, my Special Representative for Haiti, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, relinquished his post. Mr. Enrique ter Horst was appointed to succeed him (see S/1996/155 and 156). The Commanders of the military and civilian police (CIVPOL) components of UNMIH, Major-General Joseph Kinzer of the United States of America and Chief Superintendent Neil Pouliot of Canada, also completed their tours of duty and were succeeded by Brigadier-General Pierre Daigle of Canada (see S/1996/157 and 158) and Colonel Philippe Balladur of France respectively.

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

4. The electoral process, which culminated with the election of President René Préval on 17 December 1995, has provided Haiti with newly elected democratic institutions. An essential further step is to ensure that these institutions function properly. This step is hampered by numerous obstacles of a practical or financial nature, such as the lack of qualified staff, adequate premises and equipment. The absence of consensus, even among the ruling Lavalas movement, on major issues such as economic reform, will also test the capacity of the newly elected institutions.

5. Soon after his inauguration, President Préval nominated Mr. Rosny Smart for the new Prime
Minister. Mr. Smarth took office on 6 March. Strengthened by a five-year mandate, the new Minister. Mr. Smarth took office on 6 March. new
Minister. Mr. Smarth took office on 6 March.

9. On 15 March 1996, the boundaries of the operational zones of UNMIH were redrawn to conform to the Mission’s reduced strength and the needs of the public security sector. A small Paktika unit was withdrawn from Gonasav in May. As planned, a permanent military presence is maintained in the key areas of Cap Haitien (Zone 1) and Port-au-Prince (Zone 11), the remainder of the country has been divided into four “Response Zones” (see attached map). Although the personnel and civil police components of UNMIH have been reduced to a third of their original strength, the Mission maintains a visible presence throughout Haiti by maintaining the Corps de police as the public security sector’s backbone and by providing on-the-job training to HNP. The military component is also assisting HNP in creating an efficient logistics system.

10. As mandated by the Security Council, and in keeping with the priorities established by the Government of Haiti, the UNMIH military component has continued to assist the Haitian authorities with tasks, such as ensuring an outer cordon of security and logistical support for President Préval during his travels around the country, as well as providing security to former President Aristide. It also provides a security presence at key installations, including the Port-au-Prince international airport and the seaport. Together with the Haitian National Police and CIVPOL, UNMIH military personnel patrol the capital, thereby maximizing the impact of the Mission’s reduced resources and providing on-the-job training to HNP. The military component is also assisting HNP in creating an efficient logistics system.

11. The UNMIH civilian police component is deployed at 19 locations throughout Haiti. With the completion of a department of HNP, CIVPOL officers are focusing their efforts on helping HNP draw up an institutional development plan in the various joint working groups set up to ensure a smooth and orderly transfer of the tasks currently carried out by UNMIH (see S/1996/112, para. 37). CIVPOL are actively involved in the training of HNP and nine CIVPOL officers have been deployed at the Police Academy. In addition to assisting in the training of HNP senior officers and instructors, CIVPOL personnel are training the VIP security team (département de sécurité de l’ancien Président) of HNP, as well as providing additional instruction to the crowd control units (compagnies de maintien de l’ordre). CIVPOL detachments at various locations around the country are providing on-the-job training and guidance, as well as monitoring and evaluating the performance of HNP officers in the field. CIVPOL is also assisting in the creation of the HNP Officer Corps, including the preparation of selection criteria. Five CIVPOL officers are providing full-time technical assistance at HNP headquarters and an equal number are deployed with the Special Investigative Unit (brigade criminelle).

12. As mandated by the Security Council, in paragraph 9 of resolution 1048 (1996), I have initiated planning for the withdrawal of UNMIH personnel and assets from Haiti. It provides for the withdrawal to be completed within three months of the expiration of the Mission’s mandate.

IV. HAITIAN NATIONAL POLICE

13. The ninth and last class of the Haitian National Police cadets, which recently completed its training at the Police Academy, was deployed on schedule in late February, thus bringing HNP to 5,600. The Haitian National Police is making its presence increasingly felt in Port-au-Prince and in the other towns, as well as in the countryside, and has been working to provide the country with a stable and secure environment. Yet challenges to this force are constant and considerable. A spate of attacks against HNP personnel has claimed the lives of five officers in recent weeks. While it has not been possible, at this stage, to establish that there is a clear pattern which would indicate a political motive for these deplorable incidents, they are not surprisingly having an adverse effect on the force’s morale and its ability to carry out its responsibilities.

14. Many of the young police officers work conscientiously and enthusiastically, a fact which is reflected in the progress they have achieved. However, as I pointed out in my previous report (see S/1996/112, para. 14), the force continues to suffer from the absence of an effective senior officer corps, as well as from a lack of adequate equipment and appropriate operating procedures. These shortcomings are compounded by a lack of coordination within the public security sector. The consequences were underscored in March 1996 when agents attached to several police units stormed the Cité Soleil slum in Port-au-Prince after receiving information that the base was being attacked by several well-armed criminal groups. This operation, which was not adequately planned, led to the deaths of eight civilians. President Préval’s decision to dissolve the intelligence body formerly known as Service d’Intelligence national is encouraging and demonstrates the Government’s commitment to dismantling all public security functions within HNP.

15. The new leadership of HNP, under Mr. Robert Manuel, the Secretary of State for Public Security, and Mr. Pierre Denizé, the new Director General of the Police, is working closely with the civilian component of UNMIH. They have prepared an immediate and long-range work programme to promote the institutional development of HNP in four major areas: training, infrastructure and logistics, management, and operations. To ensure rapid progress, working groups including representa- tives of the Government, UNMIH and the Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti have been set up in each area. President Préval, the Prime Minister and other senior officials are kept informed on a weekly basis of the progress achieved by these groups.

16. The working group on management, which is focusing on crucial aspects such as recruitment, promotion and rules of discipline and service, is expected to complete its work by the last quarter of 1996. The various working groups on organization and operations have laid the groundwork for properly organizing the force and for establishing operations and information centres at all levels. The central operations centre (centre d’opérations) was established in Port-au-Prince on 15 May. These working groups are also planning the establish- ment of specialized units, including a judicial police, two additional crowd control units and an armed intervention squad (brigade d’intervention rapide), demonstrating its resolve to strengthen the rule of law, has decided to reinforce the department charged with criminal investigation, the Special Investigative Unit.

17. Notwithstanding these positive steps, consolidation of the Haitian National Police presupposes the existence of senior- and intermediate-level officers selected in a transparent process based on professional criteria. To overcome the sequela of the recent upheaval, the first of three accelerated courses has begun to train about 80 commissioned officers. The participants were selected on the basis of criteria established by CIVPOL. The first course has been planned for departmental directors and inspectors. Graduates of these courses should provide HNP with about two thirds of its pro- jected senior officer complement. Regular full courses for the remaining officers will begin thereafter, to be completed in the second half of 1997.

18. On numerous occasions, I have mentioned that the four-month basic training course provided by UNMIH personnel in the Police Academy was widely considered insufficient. The force’s training programme accordingly envisages additional instruction for all HNP personnel at