

Dick Bernard



January 9, 2004

Peter DeShazo
WHA Bureau Rm 6262
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC 20520

Dear Mr. DeShazo:

I recently read a release originating from your office that the U.S. gave Haiti more than \$850 million in direct bilateral assistance from 1995 to 2003. I then went to State's web site, and printed out the three pages specifically about Haiti, all dated December 29, 2003, and was surprised at the very small amount of information contained there.

I am a lifelong U.S. citizen, and I am very interested in the nature of U.S. government funds going to Haiti, their purpose, and who controls their use, and I am specifically interested in a breakdown of the \$850 million bilateral assistance, specifically who received what amounts of money for what purpose(s). I'd like this broken down by fiscal year. Also, I would like to know how much of this money, by year, went directly to the Haitian government for its purposes. Certainly there must exist an already prepared report which would provide the detail without need for further research by your office.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter.

Most sincerely,



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

*Sent with
Jan. 9 '04
request -
next two pages
are the other
pages referred
to in the letter.*

Fact Sheet
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, DC
December 29, 2003

U.S. Assistance to Haiti

The U.S. Government is Haiti's largest donor. The U.S. is working with the island nation to reduce poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition. U.S. aid also promotes the rule of law and respect for human rights. In spite of Haiti's deteriorating economy, social indicators clearly show improvement in the areas of intervention.

During fiscal years 1995 to 2003, the U.S. gave Haiti more than \$850 million in direct bilateral assistance, and the U.S. is seeking \$55 million for fiscal year 2004, to provide the following:

- **Food Security (\$24 million sought):** for food assistance under P.L. 480 Title II, for nutritional well-being and food security, particularly for nursing mothers and for children under age 5.
- **Health (\$21.8 million):** A U.S.-supported network of over 30 local organizations serves 2.5 million Haitians. In U.S.-assisted areas, child immunization rates are nearly double the national average, and have increased by 85% in some areas. Thanks to U.S. aid, child malnutrition rates fell from 32% to 22% in 1995-2000; the national percentage of women seeking prenatal consultation increased from 68% to 79%; and the national contraceptive use rate increased, as part of the expanded AIDS prevention program. Haiti may also benefit from United States support for the Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.
- **Democracy (\$2.9 million):** U.S. programs increase political party professionalism, strengthen independent media and civil society organizations, promote judicial reform and human rights, and support independent election observation groups. U.S. public diplomacy programs bring Haitian Government officials, journalists, and academics to the United States to learn about public policies and programs.
- **Education (\$2.5 million):** U.S. aid resulted in a pass rate increase for third and fourth grade students through improved training for 4,000 teachers and school directors; radio education in math and Creole; and books, teaching aids, and curriculum guides.
- **Economic Growth (\$1.75 million):** Income for the poor through small business loans to urban micro-entrepreneurs is on the rise, due to U.S. aid. Programs also offer assistance to small farmers in marketing valuable export crops such as coffee, cacao, and mangos; and help Haitian artisans to find niche export markets. Beneficiaries include small entrepreneurs (80% women), 25,000 hillside farmers, and 2,000 artisans.

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Original request

www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/27564pf.htm

1/9/2004

**Fact Sheet****Office of the Spokesman**

Washington, DC

December 29, 2003

Haiti and the International Financial Institutions

The United States supports normal relations between Haiti and the international financial institutions (IFIs). Organization of American States Resolution 822, adopted by the OAS Permanent Council on September 4, 2002, urged both sides to work toward this goal.

The IFIs are actively engaged in Haiti. The staff of the International Monetary Fund agreed with the Government of Haiti in June 2003 on a macroeconomic program to limit Haiti's budget deficit, improve transparency, and curb inflation. With this agreement in place and Haiti's clearance of its arrears to the Inter-American Development Bank on July 8, the bank's board approved a \$50 million Investment Sector Loan, of which the first \$35 million tranche was released July 24.

As Haiti's arrears to the Inter-American Development Bank have been cleared, the bank has made available four previously approved project loans totaling \$146 million (ratified by the Haitian Parliament in December 2000). Each loan is disbursing in accordance with the project terms.

In November, the Inter-American Development Bank approved an additional \$202 million in new loans that must now be approved by the Government of Haiti. The rate at which approved loans disburse depend on the Haitian Government's execution of projects and its policy performance.

Successful performance by the Haitian Government under its International Monetary Fund Staff Monitored Program and clearance of World Bank arrears are also needed for future IMF and World Bank lending. Although the World Bank suspended its disbursement of loans in 2001 due to Haiti's arrears, the Bank continued its donor coordination role, most recently holding a donor meeting on December 5, 2003. The Bank also assists Haiti through grants from the Post-Conflict Fund; in 2003, the World Bank disbursed part of the \$5 million that it had planned for grants to Haiti. Renewed World Bank lending in Haiti depends on the Haitian Government's arrears clearance and implementation of structural reforms, especially in the area of economic governance.

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Released on December 29, 2003

**Fact Sheet****Office of the Spokesman**

Washington, DC

December 29, 2003

Haiti: Deterring Illegal Migration

The U.S. remains committed to legal immigration from Haiti. The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince issued more than 66,000 immigrant visas since 1999.

However, deterring illegal migration is a top foreign policy objective. It is a threat to U.S. national security, and it poses a grave danger to those Haitians who attempt it.

- The Department of State works with the U.S. Embassy/Port-au-Prince and U.S. federal agencies to stem the flow of illegal migrants.
- The Department of State works with the Government of Haiti and other Caribbean nations to curb illegal migration and alien smuggling and to facilitate interdiction and repatriation operations by the U.S. Coast Guard.

In response to increased illegal migration in late 2001, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince launched a vigorous public information campaign to discourage Haitians from attempting the dangerous journey by sea that can result in loss of life. These efforts, together with the fair, judicious, and expeditious enforcement of immigration laws by the Department of Homeland Security, help discourage illegal migration from Haiti.

Given the threat illegal migration poses to national security, the United States supports sending a strong message to all foreign nationals that, consistent with international obligations and policies, the U.S. will continue to interdict and repatriate those who attempt illegal entry, absent valid protection claims.

Decisions on the terms and conditions of detention of illegal migrants in the U.S. are made by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and are outside the jurisdiction of the Department of State. The Department of State supports Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies that reinforce a foreign policy objective: to deter illegal migration from all countries, including Haiti.

Past mass migrations were triggered by shifts in U.S. policies that increased the perception boat migrants would be readily admitted into the United States. Therefore, the Department of State supports policies to minimize such perceptions and the risk of another mass migration from Haiti as well as from other countries.

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