

# DELEGATION ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Honorable Jimmy Carter

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

July 25, 1990

I am pleased to come to Haiti at the invitation of President Ertha Pascal Trouillot to discuss the electoral situation. During the last four years, the hopes of Haitians for liberty and democracy were raised several times, and each time they were dashed. Today I share the hopes of the Haitian people that this electoral process will be safe and free, and that the will of the people will be supported.

I am here in my capacity as Chairman of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government, based at the Carter Center of Emory University, which includes 19 former and current heads of government in the Western Hemisphere. Joining me in this delegation are Dennis Smith, the Chief Electoral Officer of Barbados, who is representing Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford of Barbados; Marc Lalonde, who was a member of the Canadian Parliament and Finance Minister among many other portfolios, representing former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau; and Dr. Robert Pastor, professor at Emory University and director of the Carter Center's Latin America and Caribbean Program. Our delegation is co-sponsored by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). We will be working with Lionel Johnson, Senior Program Officer of NDI.

A free election is not possible unless clear and concrete measures are adopted to assure the complete security of all voters. President Trouillot has requested observers and a security presence of the United Nations. It is important that the UN respond positively to this request, particularly as it is supported by Haiti's CARICOM neighbors. But if the UN declines, then other alternatives are required, and I will explore these with the President, senior military leaders, and leaders of different political parties.