

**Security Council**

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LETTER DATED 20 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
HAITI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 13 November 1996 which President René Prével addressed to your predecessor in connection with the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) (S/1996/956, annex). In that letter, President Prével indicated that, "according to estimates by the Government and UNSMIH experts, it would take eight to twelve months for the Haitian National Police to be able to ensure a secure and stable environment".

In that context, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of UNSMIH for an additional eight months, ending on 31 July 1997. Thanks to the assistance which UNSMIH has provided to it during this period, the Haitian Government has been able to pursue efforts aimed at setting up an effective National Police Force, capable of maintaining security and stability in the country. Significant progress has been achieved.

However, the length of the mandate, which corresponds to the minimum estimated, has proved to be insufficient to enable the Government to achieve the set objectives. Important tasks have still to be accomplished in order to strengthen the National Police and render it fully operational. In that regard, the contribution of UNSMIH remains essential.

Furthermore, in accordance with the instructions that I have received, I urge you to request the Security Council to extend the current mandate of UNSMIH to cover the 12 months that were estimated.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pierre LELONG
