

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
24 March 2004

Original: English

**Letter dated 23 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a progress report we have produced, as contributors to the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) in Haiti (see annex). I am submitting this report on behalf of the troop contributors to MIF, Canada, Chile, France and the United States of America, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1529 (2004).

I would be very grateful if you could circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John D. **Negroponte**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Status report of the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti

The Multinational Interim Force takes its mandate from paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1529 (2004). What follows is a progress report, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the resolution.

2. *Authorizes the immediate deployment of a Multinational Interim Force for a period of not more than three months from adoption of this resolution*

The initial deployment of several hundred troops has grown quickly. As of 22 March, contributions to the MIF on the ground were as follows (all figures are approximate):

United States	1 800 military
France	800 military including 80 gendarmes in Port-au-Prince
Canada	460 military
Chile	340 military
Total (approx.)	3 400
Maximum (estimate)	3 500

2. (a) *To contribute to a secure and stable environment in the Haitian capital and elsewhere in the country, as appropriate and as circumstances permit, in order to support Haitian President Alexandre's request for international assistance to support the constitutional political process under way in Haiti*

Overview: Beginning on 29 February, contributors to the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) began to arrive in Haiti in order to help stabilize the security and political environment. Within a matter of days, some of the armed gangs that roamed Port-au-Prince began to withdraw. Organized and ad hoc looting, especially of humanitarian supplies, was significantly reduced. Main airports and seaports were operational again by 11 March, and a possible humanitarian crisis may have been averted. In addition to overt presence patrols, the MIF has secured and will continue to safeguard the main government buildings to provide a secure environment for the Interim Haitian Government. By mid-March we observed the return of children to schools and the opening of shops, markets, banks and other community services.

Areas of operation: The arrival of MIF forces contributed to a "return to normalcy" in Port-au-Prince within two weeks of arrival, and limited expansion to other areas became possible. As of 22 March, France had undertaken stabilization efforts in northern Haiti, deploying troops to the rebel stronghold cities of Gonaives and Cap-Haitien, and beginning to establish roving patrols to provide a visible presence in the north. In Port-au-Prince, Canada, Chile, and the United States forces patrol respective sectors. Helicopter assets from MIF contributors are providing aerial lift and operations in support of the force mandate. The United States has also begun to deploy small roving patrols to key sites in central and southern Haiti. The

number of troops available to the MIF is not sufficient to guard large numbers of static sites, such as hospitals, warehouses and other sites.

Disarmament: The MIF is assisting the police in “practical disarmament”, which is to say that MIF forces on patrol jointly with Haitian National Police will exploit opportunities to detain illegally armed persons and to confiscate arms for transfer to local authorities, but lacks the capacity to undertake a structured national disarmament programme. Some disarmament, however, will be achieved. The MIF is working to develop additional intelligence on arms caches and will act on that information as it becomes available. Recently, for example, a cache of 60 arms was surrendered to the police in Cité Soleil in a public ceremony supported by local residents.

- (b) *To facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and the access of international humanitarian workers to the Haitian people in need*

Overview: Coordination between humanitarian personnel and the Multinational Interim Forces continues to improve. Special civil-military operation teams have been assigned to work with humanitarian organizations to improve the coordination of assistance. The approach of the MIF is to secure strategic points to facilitate humanitarian access. The principal airports and seaports are now fully functional, and overland delivery of goods is now possible to much of Haiti during daylight hours. The MIF has only a limited ability to provide a static presence at certain key sites, for example, in response to a request from the ICRC, it provided protection to Hospital Canapé Vert in Port-au-Prince to permit it to resume the provision of medical care. The MIF will continue to work closely with humanitarian agencies to facilitate the provision of international humanitarian assistance and access by international humanitarian workers.

- (c) *To facilitate the provision of international assistance to the Haitian police and the Haitian Coast Guard in order to establish and maintain public safety and law and order and to promote and protect human rights*

Overview: In Port-au-Prince the Multinational Interim Forces have begun to work with the Haitian National Police and Coast Guard in support of patrols to maintain law and order. With MIF support, the HNP has begun to re-establish a presence in areas that were previously controlled by armed gangs. We note however, that the MIF does not itself have an executive policing mandate. With MIF assistance, the Haitian Coast Guard is once again patrolling Haitian waters.

Haitian National Police: The Haitian National Police faces serious challenges in re-establishing its authority throughout the country. The HNP suffers from a lack of police officers and vital equipment, which is compounded by political divisions and mistrust among the forces that remain. The new Director General of the Haitian National Police, Leon Charles, has consulted with the MIF, and has asked MIF contributor nations for help in finding new officers, procuring vehicles and fuel, and in vetting existing police units in order to remove human rights abusers. Rebuilding a credible national police force, backed by effective judicial authorities, is perhaps the most important task confronting Haiti in the wake of President Aristide’s departure. The MIF will be working closely with the United Nations and OAS to establish the conditions for the deployment of a follow-on United Nations force and to facilitate international efforts to assist the HNP.

Haitian Coast Guard: The US Coast Guard is assisting the Haitian Coast Guard with logistics, vessel maintenance and supplies. The MIF is helping to provide security at Killick Coast Guard base in Port-au-Prince. The MIF is also attempting to facilitate retroactive salary payments to Haitian Coast Guard personnel. With MIF support the Haitian Coast Guard has recommenced operations, including harbour patrols.

- (d) *To support establishment of conditions for international and regional organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States, to assist the Haitian people*

Overview: Thanks to the rapid deployment of the Multinational Interim Force, the staff of international and regional organizations, including the OAS and the United Nations, have now been able to return to work in situ and assistance projects have resumed.

- (e) *To coordinate, as needed, with the OAS Special Mission and with the United Nations Special Adviser for Haiti, to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation*

Overview: The Multinational Interim Force commander has met with United Nations Special Adviser Dumas and with OAS representatives in order to exchange views on the situation in Haiti and the best means of responding to humanitarian objectives. MIF contributors believe that coordination of international and regional organizations is crucial to improve the humanitarian situation and to maximize the effectiveness of international assistance. This vital work will continue.

Concluding remarks

The MIF mandate will conclude on 1 June. Some MIF forces may convert to blue-hatted United Nations forces at that time. Planning will begin to prepare the relief in place of MIF forces. The transition from the MIF to a United Nations stabilization force will therefore require detailed coordination. The MIF is already working with the United Nations assessment team in Haiti and will continue close cooperation. The MIF contributors recommend that a United Nations transition team be deployed to Haiti as early as mid-April.

The MIF contributors hope that the international community will continue to work with the people of Haiti in order to achieve long-term political, social and economic development. Efforts of the regional organizations in coordination with the United Nations will be essential in this regard.

