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LETTER DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1968 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
HAITI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The Haitian Government, which has always been concerned to fulfil its international obligations, has not refused to pay the contribution to the United Nations which is due from it as a **Member**.

The Haitian Government fully understands the importance for the future of the Haitian nation of its full participation in the various deliberations of the United Nations.

Its silence hitherto was due to the fact that it was hoping to collect the necessary funds for the full payment of its contribution as a **Member** of the United Nations before the opening of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

The Haitian Government requests the President of the General Assembly to take into consideration the reasons why it has not been able to meet its commitments.

Despite the superhuman efforts of the Government of Haiti, the economy of the country is suffering greatly from the after effects of three terrible cyclones, Betty, Flora and Ines, which, over a period of seven years, have destroyed half of its agriculture, its livestock and its barely established light industry.

There remained tourism. But eight consecutive invasions of Haiti by Haitian and foreign mercenaries together with unfavourable propaganda abroad have contributed to a considerable decrease in the revenue derived from that source.

The most recent of these invasions, that of 20 May 1968 which was the subject of a complaint by Haiti to the Security Council, was the most damaging for tourism and for the general economy of the country.

Before this last invasion, the Haitian Government had had strong hopes of paying its contributions to the United Nations in view of the bright prospects which were developing.

These prospects were such that the Haitian Government had felt obliged to undertake many projects to develop the country's infra-structure, such as the construction of the hydro-electric plant at Peligre for the electrification of the country; the irrigation of the Artibonite Valley; the construction of the road in the South; the reorganization of the water system for the Republic's towns; the establishment of a modern telephone system; the development of the Republic's ports.

The Haitian Government, however, considers that the economic difficulties confronting it will be very short-lived. It has in fact taken all the necessary steps to ensure that between now and the beginning of next year it will finish discharging its obligations and resume its programme of economic expansion.

In accordance with its desire to regulate its position vis-à-vis the United Nations and in view of the circumstances which prevent it from doing so immediately, the Haitian Government has asked me to request a further period of not more than three months for the payment of its arrears and in the meantime, as evidence of its good faith, offers to pay the sum of \$5,005 as a symbolic gesture in order not to lose its right to vote.

Attached is cheque No. 140 relating to this matter.

I would ask you to communicate the text of this letter to the Members of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Marcel Ch. ANTOINE
Ambassador
