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LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1990 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, with reference to my letter of 7 September 1990 (S/21845), to enclose the text of a further letter which I have received from the Interim President of Haiti, clarifying the Haitian Government's request for the assistance of the United Nations in connection with the forthcoming general elections in Haiti.

I should be grateful if you would draw this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

Annex

Letter dated 14 September 1990 from the Provisional President
of the Republic of Haiti addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

I have the honour to confirm the terms of the request made in the letters dated 23 June and 9 August 1990 concerning assistance to the Haitian Government in connection with the organization of the forthcoming general elections.

In addition to the assistance to the Provisional Electoral Council, which is already under way and which I hope will continue, my Government maintains its request for support, comprising two inseparable components, for the Haitian electoral process: observation and verification of this process, on the one hand, and assistance in drawing up electoral security plans and observing their implementation, on the other.

It remains understood that in its civilian component, the operation would be analogous to the United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua, and would comprise:

(a) A permanent nucleus of some 50 observers which would arrive in Haiti prior to voter registration and would leave after the elections;

(b) Reserve teams at the time of the elections and, if possible, of voter registration, bringing the total to a few hundred observers. Co-ordination with the Organization of American States is envisaged.

In its security component, the operation would provide for:

(a) Assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee to ensure the security of the elections;

(b) Observation of the implementation of security plans by specialized staff, i.e. by observers, the number of whom will have to be determined, with solid experience in the field of public order.

For the Haitian Government, it is clear that these observers, experts in security matters, will be in no way comparable with "Blue Helmets" or other peace-keeping forces. Absolute responsibility in this area rests with the Haitian Armed Forces.

The mission of these experts is limited to assisting the Co-ordinating Committee in drawing up security plans and to observing the implementation of measures provided for therein.

These experts (soldiers or members of military institutions specialized in the maintenance of internal public order) will not be authorized, throughout the duration of their mission in Haiti, to carry or use firearms for either offensive or defensive purposes.

Their presence will come to an end immediately after the elections.

I should like to emphasize that this request is supported by all national institutions, which are concerned to see the electoral process take place in an orderly and peaceful fashion.

I reiterate the Haitian Government's gratitude for your unceasing efforts to ensure the success of Haiti's request.

(Signed) Mrs. Ertha PASCAL TROUILLOT
Provisional President of the Republic

