

internal security. Corruption is rife; including reported police involvement in kidnapping-for-ransom, car theft, and coercion of junior police officers either to assist in or to ignore drug trafficking activities. President Aristide has attempted to shore up his personal and political security by politicizing the Haitian National Police (HNP). This, in contravention to one of President Aristide's commitments to the United States Government, bodes ill for an effective counternarcotics effort.

With two exceptions (putting into force a 1997 U.S.-Haiti bilateral maritime counternarcotics interdiction agreement and establishing a Financial Intelligence Unit), the Government of Haiti (GOH) has taken no action on its own initiative in the past year either to cooperate with the United States to interdict the flow of drugs destined for the United States or to honor its commitments as a party to the 1988 U.N. Drug Convention.

Other than signing a bilateral counternarcotics Letter of Agreement, permitting the polygraph examination of 40 HNP anti-drug unit officers, and removing those with questionable results, Haiti failed to take significant counterdrug actions requested by the United States Government. In summary, the GOH did not:

- 1) Deposit an instrument of ratification of the OAS Inter-American Convention Against Corruption;
- 2) introduce anti-corruption legislation;
- 3) prosecute drug-related public (including police) corruption;
- 4) implement fully the anti-money laundering law passed in January 2001;
- 5) enforce existing anti-money laundering guidelines issued by the Central Bank;
- 6) require cross-border currency declarations and provide penalties for noncompliance;
- 7) increase the number of arrests of major traffickers;
- 8) establish a permanent BLTS (French acronym for the HNP anti-drug unit) office outside Port-au-Prince; or
- 9) provide training to judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials.

Despite Haiti's demonstrable failure on counternarcotics issues, U.S. vital national interests require that U.S. assistance to Haiti continue. Haiti is the hemisphere's poorest country. There is a continued need for assistance to programs that increase access to education, combat environmental degradation, fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, and foster the creation of legitimate business and employment opportunities. These programs can create an atmosphere conducive to building democracy and reducing illegal migration. They will also address root causes of poverty and hopelessness in Haiti, contributing factors behind Haitian involvement in the international drug trade. Suspension of assistance to Haiti would result in the further deterioration of Haitian institutions. Additionally, suspension would hamper U.S. efforts to ensure implementation of OAS Resolution 822, which commits Haiti to hold legislative elections in 2003.