

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

December 30, 1991

Mr. John E. Flynn
Deputy City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your letter concerning the situation in Haiti.

The overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is an affront not only to the people of Haiti, but to all friends of freedom throughout this hemisphere.

Last December, after nearly thirty years of violence under the Duvalier regime, the courageous Haitian people succeeded in establishing civilian rule. President Aristide's landslide victory was the country's first truly democratic election. Now, the return of military dictatorship in Haiti has plunged the country back into the era of repression from which it had only just emerged.

The United States must support the Haitian people in their struggle for a peaceful, democratic government. I support the Bush Administration in calling on the Haitian military to respect the country's constitution and I support the resolution of the Organization of American States condemning the coup and demanding the restoration of Haiti's democracy.

However, the Administration's policy of forcibly repatriating Haitians fleeing from the violence and turmoil in their homeland is shameful. Fortunately, it has been stopped by the courts. The United States should take a leadership role within the OAS and with the assistance of the United States High Commissioner for Refugees, to encourage other nations in the region to adopt more effective initiatives to deal with the refugee crisis. In addition, we should redouble our diplomatic efforts to restore democracy and peaceful conditions in Haiti.

I appreciate your writing to me about this critical issue for our hemisphere, and I am hopeful that a peaceful and satisfactory resolution can soon be achieved.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy

Consent Comm. # 16 5-40

Comm. from Senator Edward M. Kennedy
regarding the resolution transmitted
to him by the City Council regarding
the situation in Haiti,

In City Council,

January 13, 1992

Placed on file