

**Council of Freely-Elected  
Heads of Government**

Carter Center of  
Emory University  
One Copenhill  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
(404) 420-5175

**National Democratic Institute  
for International Affairs**

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 503  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 328-3136  
(202) 939-3166 (Fax)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Donna Huffman (202) 328-3136  
Lionel Johnson (509) 570307  
(Hotel El Rancho)

**CARTER, PRICE, AND WHITEHEAD TO LEAD HAITI DELEGATION**

Washington, D.C., December 6, 1990 -- Former President Jimmy Carter, Prime Minister George Price of Belize, and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead will lead an international and bipartisan delegation to observe the elections in Haiti on December 16, 1990. The delegation is co-sponsored by the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government, which is based at the Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU) in Atlanta, and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) of Washington, D.C.

"For too long, the people of Haiti have been denied by a small violent group their opportunity to elect their leaders," said President Carter. "Yesterday's deplorable violence indicates that this group is still trying to intimidate the Haitian people. We will not be deterred from our efforts to support the Haitians who continue to aspire to democracy. We are hoping these elections will provide the historical breakthrough that the people of Haiti want."

The delegation includes 34 members from thirteen countries, including senior representatives of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, Barbadian Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, and former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who are all members of the Council of the Freely-Elected Heads of Government. Other members of the delegation are former Speaker of the House Jim Wright and former World Bank President Robert McNamara.

Members of the delegation will arrive in Port-au-Prince for briefings on December 14 and will remain until the day after the election. They will meet with President Trouillot, members of the Provisional Electoral Council, Chief of Staff General Abraham, and political leaders. The delegation will be divided into groups that will observe the election in each of the nine departments of Haiti. They will be working closely with teams from the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations to coordinate observation of the elections and to conduct a "quick count" of the election results.

- more -

We have already received assurances from the leadership of the armed forces and the government that they will help make this a free and fair election," said President Carter. "More important, the army and the government have been collaborating toward this end, unlike in 1987."

J. Brian Atwood, President of NDI, which has observed elections throughout the world, said: "Having led the delegation to Haiti in 1987, I have a special appreciation for President Carter's willingness to lead this bipartisan delegation with John Whitehead, who was Deputy Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration." NDI has been working with the political parties in Haiti to assist them in voter education and pollwatching activities.

The council of Freely-Elected Heads of government is a group of 18 hemispheric leaders whose goal is to reinforce democracy. President Carter and Prime Minister Price, chair and vice chair of the Council, have led delegations to observe the elections in Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and have been asked to observe the elections in Guyana in 1991 as well.

The NDI/Council delegation has sent four separate missions to observe the electoral process in Haiti. Three missions have been led by former President Carter, in July, September, and October, and Prime Minister Price led a group to observe the registration process in October.

The delegation has been organized by Lionel Johnson, Senior Program Officer at NDI, and Dr. Robert Pastor, Executive Secretary of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government and director of CCEU's Latin American and Caribbean program. According to Dr. Pastor, "We hope that the delegation's presence will encourage the people to vote and reassure all Haitians that the international community firmly supports their desire for democracy."

- # # # -