

Addressing Governance Challenges in Haiti: The Role of the International Community

Remarks by Ambassador Raymond A. Joseph

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Haiti's situation today can be summarized in one

mismanaged, Martelly and Lamothe are preparing their return to power, probably with international support, as before.

Only a Marshall Plan for Haiti, initiated by a broadly-based interim government over a period of at least two years, will be able to bring order to the country and keep Haitians at home, instead of their becoming refugees throughout the Western Hemisphere, even reaching the southern border of the United States, and being airlifted back to the hell-on-earth from which they fled.

Only such a plan will finally make Haiti into the little paradise it was supposed to be after our ancestors had defeated the slave masters on November 18, 1803, and declared the first free Black Republic in the world on January 1st, 1804. Even able sons and daughters of Haiti living abroad would want to go back and help in the flowering of a new nation.

But we know the story of the embargo declared by the slave masters, including the United States, and of the debt of reparations imposed on Haiti in 1825 for property loss by the enslavers, including slaves. Thus, was Haiti's feeble economy mortgaged from the beginning, and the country, under threat of cannons, kept paying until 1947, when the last penny was collected by the precursor of New York's Citibank. Only a Marshall Plan for Haiti will undo such crying injustice.