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Haiti's Aristide: Deposed but still fighting

It has been nearly a year since he was deposed from the presidency in Haiti. But the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide keeps working to bring democracy there.

Aristide is rare among heads of state in that he once was a Roman Catholic priest, in the Selesian order. He gave up his priesthood for his political involvement but says there is no difference between his politics and religion.

As president, taking office early last year, he proposed raising the minimum daily wage from $3 to $5, introduced education reform, and asked the rich to pay taxes.

But on Sept. 30, the deadline for tax payments and just nine months after he took office, the military took over in a violent coup d'etat.

The world responded with outrage and imposed a tough embargo to force Aristide back into power.

But the embargo has not persuaded the military government, which installed civilian Marc Bazin as prime minister.

The embargo and increased political violence since the coup have driven Haitians out. They flee in small boats, bound for America.

The U.S. Coast Guard has intercepted some 37,000 of them and returned at least 26,000 to Haiti, a controversial U.S. policy.

Aristide, meanwhile, lives in Venezuela and travels to win support for democracy in Haiti.

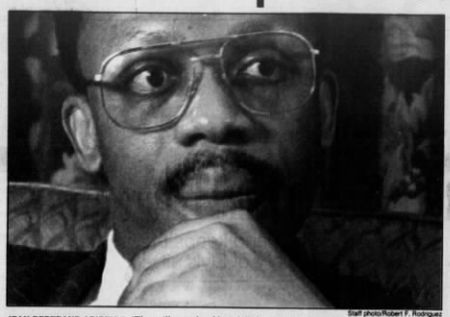
Last month he visited New York City, and Rockland Journal-News reporter Cathy Carroll talked with him about Haiti's future.

QUESTION: What have you been doing here in New York and in your travels throughout the United States?

ARISTIDE: I have to meet a couple of Haitian groups and meet people in the economic field. I met several groups of people in the economic field because when we're talking about democracy, it's also a question of investment. If you invest in a place, you must take time to meet people . . . to let them realize how without political stability it's impossible to have democracy in Haiti.

QUESTION: What drove you to politics?

ARISTIDE: There isn't any contradiction between my theological point of view and my political point of view. From my theological point of view, God is you. God is that man or that woman. I cannot say I love God if I don't start to love you. And if I love you, I have to be able to serve you —even to die for you, the same way Jesus did. You become president to clean, through the law, public administration — where you have corruption, corruption, corruption. You become president to make sure that drug trafficking will not be the biggest industry.



Staff photo/Robert F. Rodriguez

JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE: *'They will never be able to kill the spirit of love . . . the spirit of democracy.'*

QUESTION: What do you think of the United States' response to the coup and the repatriation of the refugees.

ARISTIDE: I always think and I always say, when we face the refugees we have to recognize they are political refugees. Because of that, their rights must be respected. Until you have democracy back in Haiti, we will still see political refugees — plenty of political refugees — fleeing political oppression.

QUESTION: What do you think the United States needs to do to restore democracy.

ARISTIDE: There are several ways. In 1986, (dictator) Jean-Claude Duvalier left the country after a phone call (from the U.S. government). Then General (Henri) Namphy the same way and General (Prosper) Avril the same way. So a phone call should be enough to solve that problem.

QUESTION: Do you think that phone call might still come? Is that a possibility? If not, why?

ARISTIDE: It's a question of waiting for that call. If they wanted to do it, they would do it. We're not that kind of people, closing our eyes and praying to God, waiting for a miracle. In the same way, we're not that kind of people, closing our eyes and waiting for a gift coming from someone else. We always take our responsibility to do what we can do. When we do that we always open the door to welcome help from friends.

QUESTION: Is the United States to blame for Haiti's current situation regarding the military?

ARISTIDE: I would not use that verb "to blame" because I always believe everybody has his own responsibility in front of history. History will never forget what you do today . . . History will always remember the courage of the Haitian people, still saying no to blood, no to political oppression, no to dictatorship.

QUESTION: Should the international embargo against Haiti be lifted?

ARISTIDE: Haitian people still continue saying yes to the embargo — a total embargo.

QUESTION: Under what conditions would you return as president?

ARISTIDE: The problem comes from the army. (Gen. Raoul) Cedras and the thugs were and are the first responsible. Until we remove them from this army, we will never be able to have the process of professionalization of the army.

QUESTION: Describe Aristide the man. Do you see any parallels between yourself and Toussaint (L'Ouverture, a former slave and devout Catholic who helped lead the Haitian slaves to independence in the Haitian Revolution 1791-1804)?

ARISTIDE: If I have to answer directly to the question, let me just say — a man who loves people because he loves God. A man who loves his country, the same way Jesus loved Jerusalem —Israel. If a man who believes when somewhere, someone is a slave, all of us have to do our best to share his condition and free that man. If we do that, and because I want to do it, in that way I continue what Toussaint was doing. It's not a question of one man, it's a question of one people.

So I believe they could kill Jesus but they cannot kill his love. They could kill Jesus but they cannot kill the spirit of justice.

In the same way today they will never be able to kill the spirit of love, the spirit of justice, the spirit of democracy.

When the Haitian community says freedom or death, democracy or death — it's not a slogan. It comes from the bottom of their roots. It's in our blood, and the seeds of freedom are in our blood, the seeds of love are in our blood.

Haitian issues: What's next

By Cathy Carroll
Staff Writer

- The issue of whether the United States can legally turn away Haitian refugees is expected to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court this winter. A federal appeals court last month declared illegal the Bush administration's policy of intercepting Haitian refugees at sea and returning them to Haiti without a hearing.
- Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the Organization of American States, will visit Haiti next week to negotiate a solution to Haiti's governmental crisis. The Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide had urged the OAS to monitor the negotiations of a 10-member commission to Haiti he appointed to try and restore democracy in that country.
- Alvin P. Adams Jr., U.S. ambassador to Haiti, left his post Aug. 1 when his term expired. He is credited with playing a crucial role in Haiti's fully democratic elections in 1990, the first in 188 years of independence.

Robert Kuchel, a 53-year-old senior personnel officer at the State Department, has been nominated to succeed him. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on his appointment after it returns to session in the fall.

If the United States sends a new ambassador to Haiti, the ambassador must present credentials to Haiti Prime Minister Marc Bazin, a conservative installed last June. To submit the new ambassador's credentials to Bazin would be a recognition of Bazin's government.

Immigrant settles into Rockland

By Stephanie Chang
Staff Writer

NYACK — Two months have passed since a Haitian refugee named Jean arrived in Nyack to start a new life.

Jean's voyage, as reported Monday in the Rockland Journal-News, began in late May on a rickety wooden boat in Petit-Goave, Haiti. The boat sailed three days before a U.S. naval ship picked up Jean and 200 other hungry and thirsty passengers. After spending 15 days in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jean reached Miami, and finally, Nyack, where his aunt lives.

Jean has completed six weeks of English classes at the Nyack Literacy Cooperative. Eric Alcin, supervisor of the cooperative, says Jean knows enough English to survive here but will need to continue the classes for several months.

"By January he will be able to converse with people," Alcin said.

Jean, who won't reveal his full name because he worries about the safety of his family in Haiti, has been working sporadically, fixing cars one day, cleaning playgrounds another day, but so far, he hasn't found a permanent job.

Alcin is helping Jean and four other newly arrived Haitians find jobs in Rockland.

"He's struggling, but so far, he's doing good," Alcin said.

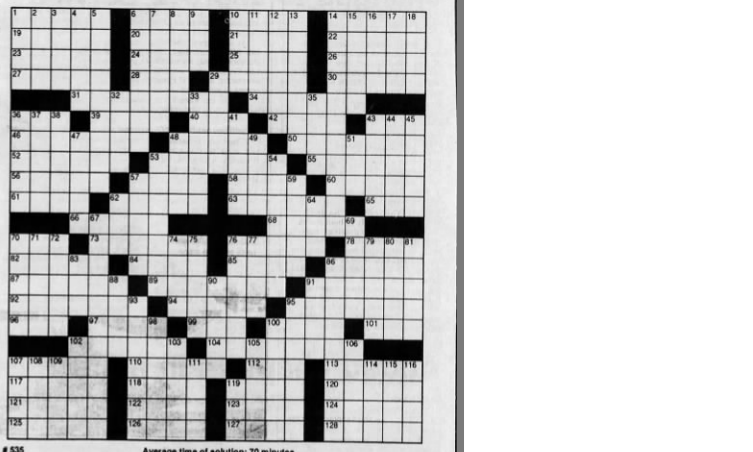
Jean's application for political asylum still requires some last-minute paperwork, but Alcin believes he will be accepted with no problems. Jean already has received a one year work permit from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Before the permit expires in 1993, Jean will applyfor lawful permanent residency, Alcin said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LIVING IT UP/BY JO PAQUIN

ACROSS
1 Dynamite man
6 — school
10 Swiss river
14 Walks at an easy gait
19 Fragrant oleoresin
20 Tree snake
21 — Rabbit
22 Fit to be tied
23 Fine line of a letter
24 It means "uncuttable"
25 Alleviate
26 Be partial to
27 Rene's aunt
28 Little boy
29 Memory book
30 Actress Verdugo
31 Sloppy woman
34 Bessie and Rex
36 Labor org.
39 Arrow poison
40 Head or shell lead-in
42 Small reticule
43 Actress Joanne
46 Coleridge's ancient one
48 Stone pillar
50 Guarantees
52 Love token
53 TV's "— of Riley"
55 Try hard
56 Chess and checkers
57 Diving bird
58 Son of Loki
60 Commercial tanker
61 Algerian seaport
62 Bill of fare
63 Merchant
65 West Point grads.
66 Kind of winter squash
68 Influences or diverts
70 Ninny
73 Instruments for Bach and Biggs
76 Wood or cake lead-in
78 Bark cloth
82 City on the Willamette
84 War god
85 Gain as profit
86 Theater boxes
87 Sovereign's decrees
89 TV's "— to Live"
91 Roadside eateries
92 Deprives (of)
94 City in Belgium
95 Means of protection
96 Dangerous curve
97 Beach bonuses
99 Mil. boat
100 Screwed up
101 Asian festival
102 Contribute
104 One who flees reality
107 Dromedary
110 Public opinion canvasses
112 French painter
113 It's also called urao
117 Defendant's need
118 Outrigger canoe
119 Coin of Iran
120 Country on the Red Sea
121 Rice dish
122 Biblical giants
123 Johnson of comedy
124 Permission
125 Cubic meter
126 Unit of force
127 It's found on rocks and trees
128 Feudal flunkies

DOWN
1 Snug retreat
2 Olive genus
3 Switzerland's capital
4 Discharges
5 They interest palmists
6 Phonograph record
7 Turn on an axis
8 Wear away
9 Actress Dawber
10 Son of Adam
11 Bedouins
12 Job hunter's need
13 Ancient ascetic
14 Biography, usually
15 Certain exams
16 Jewelry setting
17 Harrow's rival
18 Word in a Doris Day hit song
29 Theater backer
32 The dill weed
33 Hydrocarbon obtained from fossil resins
35 Large wine casks
36 Adult insect stage
37 Truman's birthplace
38 Bakery byproduct
41 Gleam or glitter
43 Military exercise
44 Protect with an embankment
45 Consumers
47 Ireland personified
48 "A — in the Dark" (1964 movie)
49 At a distance
51 Swiss canton
53 Whirlwind
54 Obliteration
57 Slow and stately, in music
59 TV's Newman
62 The heart
64 Have a snack
67 Recovers consciousness
69 Author Irving
70 Stage whisper
71 Hindu garments
72 Serbs and Croats
74 Historic ship
75 Short length of fishing line
76 Small, snappish dogs
77 Large number: colloq.
79 Deputy
80 Intrinsically
81 Article of value
83 Ending for stamp or imp
86 Consistent way of living
88 "The Man" 90 Fails to win
91 Patrick's "Ghost" costar
93 Spoke sharply
95 Marks with spots
96 — Weather" (1933 song)
100 Gem weights
102 Exclude
103 Remove beyond jurisdiction
105 Egyptian city
106 Joyce Kilmer poem
107 Surpasses
108 Dismounted
109 Post or stone lead-in
111 Rich fabric
114 Independent sultanate
115 Granular snow
116 Deauville donkeys
119 Aries

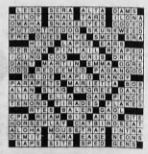


535

Average time of solution: 70 minutes.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-2300! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone / rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



HOROSCOPES

BY JOYCE JILLSON

GENERAL TENDENCIES FOR TOMORROW: All the old-fashioned virtues are easy and fun to live by. Mars trines Saturn, so you work hard, get much accomplished and earn that lovely sense of satisfaction in jobs well done. Labor and management share rare rapport, so be sure you bump into the boss in the hall. Get up early and go for it for tomorrow you may be interrupted. And go ahead with travel plans.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Surround yourself with those whose ambitions are equal to your own. Straighten out bill troubles victoriously.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Congratulations! You get the job, the loan or the promotion. Romantic imagination has never been richer; get away on Thursday or weekend for loving moments.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): This will be one of your best weeks, especially if you're happy at home. Chance to invest in your own future, perhaps by extending education, is offered.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Past is coming upfront to be dealt with face to face; enjoy seeming old matters amicably.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): Strong relationships are emphasized; even if it didn't work out as a love affair, you can be good friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Promotion may be in the works; leadership is falling to you, whether formally or just among the crew.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): A chance to try your wings in a new field. Join a gym or take up a new stus,. Terrific chance for your original efforts to find a market.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): Family events and real estate matters take precedence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Job hunts, publishing or financial ventures are on your mind. If you're the seller, prepare to meet some wary buyers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan 19): Suggestions from older folks should be heeded. Fine bargains are out there; shop for necessities and tools in spare time after dispatching with routine in record time. Don't put off bill-paying.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): The chance comes to make money at something you've always wanted to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Furniture, landscaping and other big home projects are the focus.

IF YOUR WERE BORN AUG. 17: Relationship with powerful person has big influence from October through '93. Confidence and ambition increase now; in September you'll land that job or make a property purchase that adds greatly to assets. Stabilize and consolidate in November. A whirlwind romance in December. In January and February of '93, try to keep up with demands for your super skills.

CRYPTOQUOTE

ATW CEKIWDNYS CEDOWD AGOPKJ XGDW EN SEKIEK'H VEHA NGVEYH XSEXO PH PK ATW RPJ APVW.

Answer to last week's cryptoquote

Hastings was repossessed by the bank in Akron since he couldn't come up with his balloon payment.

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