



JIMMY CARTER

October 14, 1994

To President Ernesto Perez-Balladares

To restore democracy in Haiti required the support of the international community, but few stepped forward to make the hard decisions that helped to reach that goal. You were one of the leaders in the hemisphere who demonstrated the courage of your convictions by responding favorably to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's request to accept Haiti's military leaders who resigned from office and left their country. Having personally negotiated with these men and having become acquainted with some members of their families, I am confident that they will fully respect your terms for their residence in Panama.

Your decision may not be immediately popular, but, like the Panama Canal Treaties have been in the United States, your decision will be seen as far-sighted and wise. By this courageous action, you demonstrated that the durability of democracy in your country and mine depends on its success elsewhere.

The agreement that Senator Sam Nunn, General Colin Powell, and I concluded with General Raoul Cedras and provisional president Emile Jonassaint has helped to permit Haiti to restore democracy in peace, and your accepting the military leaders contributes immeasurably to this democratic transition. Your presidency is still young, but in a short time you have shown the fortitude that will make Panamanians and North Americans proud of your leadership.

I am personally grateful to you.

Sincerely,