

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Navassa Island
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FROM : **Ambassy PORT-AU-PRINCE** *286*

176
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 22, 1958
DATE

54

REF : Department of State Instruction No. A-14 dated July 29, 1958.

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	REC'D	I N F O
	10-24	RMP-2 ARA-5 XRC-8 LS-1 CIA/PA

SUBJECT: **Haiti's Claim to Sovereignty over Navassa Island**

GG/H

The Embassy received on October 21 a note from the Haitian Foreign Office dated the same day acknowledging receipt of the Embassy's Note No. 51 dated September 8, 1958, which was delivered to the Foreign Office in compliance with the referenced instruction. The Haitian note reaffirms the rights of Haiti to the Island of Navassa.

For the information of the Department, the Embassy transmits, as Enclosure No. 1, an informal English translation of the Haitian note. The note is reproduced in its original French as Enclosure No. 2.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Virgil P. Randolph III
Virgil P. Randolph, III
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

- Haitian F.O. Note No. POL/EU/A-6-12-2042 (informal English).
- Original French.

Advance copy to:
Haitian Desk Officer ARA:CMA

VPRandolph III seal
REPORTER

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INFORMATION COPY

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Encl. No. 4Desp. No. 176From Port-au-Prince

Department of Foreign Affairs
POL/FU/A-6-12-2042

Republic of Haiti
Port-au-Prince, October 21, 1958

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge to Your Excellency receipt of the letter (sic) of September 8, 1958, No. 51, relating to Article 1 of the present Constitution of Haiti published in Le Moniteur of December 22, 1957 and formally declaring that the Island of Navassa is an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Haiti.

The Foreign Office wishes to inform the American Government that (since) all Haitian Constitutions make mention of it, it is therefore not an innovation in the Constitutional mandate and is only a reaffirmation of the imprescriptible rights of Haiti to the adjacent Island of Navassa, an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Haiti. The position of the Government of the Republic of Haiti, in this respect, has been clearly established under various circumstances and has never varied regarding the right of Haitian sovereignty over the Island of Navassa.

I take the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

/s/ Dr. L. Mars

His Excellency

Mr. Gerald DREW

Ambassador of the United States of America

Port-au-Prince.

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Encl. No. 6Desp. No. 176From Port-au-Prince

Département des
Affaires Etrangères
POL/EU/A-6-12-2042

REPUBLIC OF HAITI

Port-au-Prince, le 21 Octobre 1958

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception, à votre Excellence de la lettre du 8 Septembre 1958 au No 51 relative à l'article 1 de l'actuelle Constitution d'Haiti, publiée dans le Moniteur du 22 Décembre 1957 et déclarant formellement que l'île de la Navase fait partie intégrante du Territoire de la République d'Haiti.

La Chancellerie fait savoir Gouvernement Américain que toutes les Constitutions haitiennes le mentionnent, ce n'est donc pas une innovation dans l'ordre constitutionnel, ce n'est qu'une réaffirmation des droits imprescriptibles d'Haiti sur l'île adjacente de la Navase, partie intégrante du territoire de la République d'Haiti. La position du Gouvernement de la République d'Haiti, à cet égard, a été nettement établie en diverses circonstances et n'a jamais varié relativement au droit de souveraineté haitienne sur l'île de la Navase.

Je saisis l'occasion pour renouveler, à Votre Excellence, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Son Excellence
Monsieur Gerald DREW
Ambassadeur Des Etats Unis d'Amérique
Port-au-Prince.

/s/ Dr. L. Mars

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