PAGE: 7537

/****** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *********

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 05 OCTOBER

CONTENTS

1. HAITI: DAS TRYING TO BROKER AGREEMENT,

1. HAITI: DAS TRYING TO BROKER AGREEMENT

THE HIGH COMMAND APPEARED WILLING TO NEGOTIATE BUT REPORTEDLY FEARS RETRIBUTION FROM PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S SUPPORTERS AND FEELS CONSTRAINED BY A LACK OF CONTROL OVER ENLISTED TROOPS. THE OAS REMAINS COMMITTED TO ARISTIDE'S REINSTATEMENT, BUT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ-AN EARLY ADVOCATE OF ARMED INTERVENTION—REPORTEDLY HAS JOINED LEADERS IN MEXICO, PARAGUAY, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN ANNOUNCING THEIR OPPOSITION TO USING MILITARY FORCE. MEANWHILE, TENSIONS WITHIN HAITI REMAIN HIGH AS ARISTIDE SUPPORTERS HAVE BEGUN ATTACKING LONE SOLDIERS AND RURAL MILITARY POST. ENLISTED TROOPS IN THE CAPITAL REPORTEDLY ARE ARMING CIVILIAN SYMPATHIZERS, AND ATTACKS ON THE POPULACE CONTINUE.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CEDRAS MAY BE ANXIOUS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, THE ENLISTED TROOPS' OPPOSITION TO ARISTIDE'S RETURN LEAVES HIM LITTLE MANEUVERING ROOM IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND HE WILL HAVE TO MOVE SLOWLY TO AVOID A BACKLASH.

