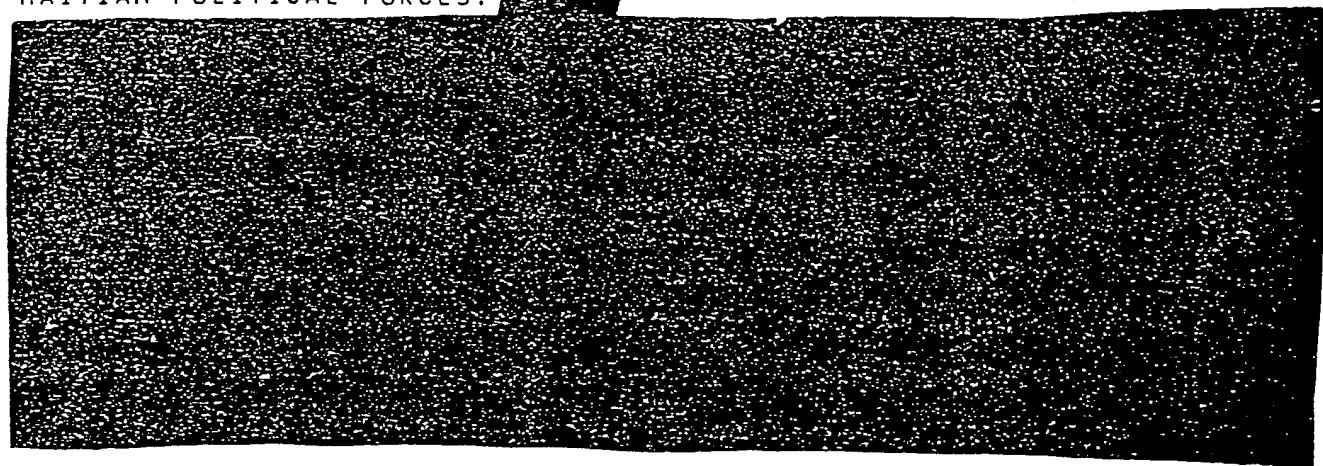


HAITI: OBSERVERS FACE MANIPULATION FROM ALL SIDES

THE UN-OAS MISSION HAS BECOME A FOCUS OF THE JOCKEYING BETWEEN HAITIAN POLITICAL FORCES.



MILITARY LEADERS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS COULD SPARK CIVIL UNREST BY THE LEFT, HOPE TO CO-OPT THE MISSION. THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF BELIEVES THAT COOPERATION WILL ENABLE IT TO MONITOR MISSION ACTIVITIES AND TO DISCOURAGE THE OBSERVERS FROM SUPPORTING OR ENCOURAGING VIOLENT ERUPTIONS; IT SUSPECTS MOST OF THEM FAVOR PRESIDENT ARISTIDE. PORT-AU-PRINCE POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, APPARENTLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS, HAS PROMISED MISSION LEADERS UNCONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND ESTABLISHED A LIAISON TEAM TO ADDRESS SECURITY CONCERNS.

COMMENT: THE EXPECTATIONS OF BAZIN AND THE MILITARY FOR THE OBSERVER FORCE SHOW THEIR OWN PARTISAN INTERESTS, AND THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION MAY FADE, ESPECIALLY IF THE MISSION IS SEEN AS

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BOLSTERING THE LEFT. THE MILITARY AND BAZIN MUST IN ANY CASE MOVE CAUTIOUSLY TO AVOID ANGERING THE ENLISTED MEN, MANY OF WHOM REGARD THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD RESTORATION OF OUSTED ARISTIDE.

[REDACTED]

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