



Whereas, In 2000, President Aristide ran successfully once again for the presidency of the Republic of Haiti, winning a second term with approximately 92% of the vote, in an election that created a political crisis stemming from fraudulent legislative elections, and

Whereas, Unable to resolve the political crisis during the first three years of his second term, on February 29, 2004, President Aristide resigned and went into exile in the Central African Republic after several months of violent and deadly unrest between government forces and opposition rebels who had taken control of several Haitian cities and who had stated that the only peaceful way out of the political crisis was President Aristide's immediate resignation; and

Whereas, Upon President Aristide's departure from Haiti, published reports claimed that he was forced by the United States to resign and leave the country, a claim that has been denied by The White House and American officials; and

Whereas, Recently, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and 46 of her colleagues in the United States House of Representatives have introduced H.R. 3919, which would establish an Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti; and

Whereas, H.R. 3919 would direct the Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti to examine the United States' role in the coup, including the extent to which the United States impeded the democratic process in Haiti and any actions and policies by the United States that may have contributed to the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Haiti; and

Whereas, H.R. 3919 would also direct the Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti to examine the circumstances of President Aristide's resignation and exile and the extent to which the United States fulfilled its obligations under the Organization of American States ("OAS") Inter-American Democratic Charter that requires each OAS member country to aid another OAS government under attack; and

Whereas, Additionally, H.R. 3919 would direct the Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat

in the Republic of Haiti to examine the extent to which the United States impeded international efforts, particularly those of the Caribbean Community countries, to prevent the overthrow of President Aristide; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York supports H.R. 3919, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, which would establish an Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti.

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