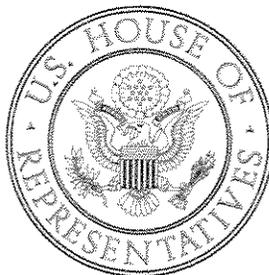


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CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

January 25, 2005

Secretary-General Kofi Annan
Office of the Secretariat
UN Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017
FAX 212-963-4879

Dear Secretary-General Annan:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote to the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti, Gerard Latortue, regarding the upcoming national elections in Haiti.

Earlier this month, the United Nations Security Council called on Haiti's transitional government to ensure free elections in 2005. This is a matter of great concern to me, because the Congressional District that I represent includes the largest Haitian population in the nation.

I asked Prime Minister Latortue to take whatever actions are necessary, and I request your support and assistance to allow Haitian citizens living in the United States to vote in Haiti's upcoming national elections at a consulate or other appropriate location in the United States.

At present, U.S. legal residents of Haitian origin must return to Haiti to cast their vote. If Haiti were to permit U.S. legal residents of Haitian origin to vote in the U.S., it would accomplish the goal of allowing full participation by the Haitian electorate with minimal disruption or hardship. Several other countries already provide for such voting, including the France, Ukraine, the Philippines, and Iraq.

I am also enclosing a letter I wrote to President Bush asking that the United States assist Haiti with funding and administrative assistance for free and fair elections, as well as his support for enabling Haitians living in the United States to vote here rather than having to travel back to Haiti.

I refer this matter to your attention and thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendrick B. Meek".

KENDRICK B. MEEK
Member of Congress

Enclosures