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# CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

## U.N. sanctions result in pact to discontinue military reign

By Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS — Haiti's deposed priest-president appears to be on his way back to power following the July 3 signing of an agreement with the military leader who ejected him from the presidential office in 1991.

During a July 7 news conference at the United Nations, U.N. official Dante Caputo said he thought a meeting involving Haiti's political parties would take place July 14 or 15 at U.N. headquarters to begin the process of restoring Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidency.

Caputo negotiated the agreement between the exiled Father Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected president, and the island-state's military



Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras

commander, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras.

In the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Caputo's representative, Leandro Despouy, held a news conference on July 7 to stress that Haiti's political parties must make the next move if international economic sanctions are to be suspended.

"If the sanctions are not lifted, it will be their entire responsibility ... President Aristide, General Cedras and the international community have played their part," Despouy said.

"If all the parties play the game right, Haiti stands a good chance to overcome its ancestral misery," Despouy said, adding that the international community had made a

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# HAITI

## Deal greeted with skepticism here

A wait-and-see attitude appears to be the prevailing sentiment across the Rochester diocese regarding the planned restoration of democracy in Haiti.

"I'm very cautious to call it a positive step. The majority of Haitians are very skeptical about it," said Joseph Pierre, a parishioner at Rochester's Corpus Christi Church, 864 Main St. E.

The 40-year-old Pierre left his native Haiti 15 years ago and has lived in Rochester for the past decade. Several family members remain in Haiti, he said.

Pierre contends that the leader of Haiti's military regime, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, only agreed to allow Haiti's overthrown president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to return to power so that the United Nations would quickly remove a worldwide oil and arms embargo which the U.N. Security Council

adopted June 23.

"I call this acting. You must know that Cedras has already broken hundreds of contracts that were signed by him," Pierre remarked. "It would be a big mistake to lift the embargo ... Cedras is an evil person. Once the embargo is lifted, the Haitians believe that for Aristide to come back is over Cedras' dead body."

The predominately Roman Catholic — and extremely poor — Caribbean island nation has undergone extreme turmoil since military forces ousted Father Aristide from office in September, 1991.

"There is no way you can understand what the Haitians are going through unless you go to bed hungry, or you spend a few days or weeks there," Pierre stated. "The only way of surviving is leaving the country."

Pierre estimated that 500 native Haitians reside in the

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Father  
Jean-Bertrand  
Aristide

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