

## Jean-Bertrand Aristide: Bush's 'voodoo democrat'

Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is not the "slight, bespectacled, soft-spoken priest," as the U.S. establishment media was portraying him until reports of his "democratic excesses" began to embarrass the Bush administration. Neither is he the "champion of the poor and downtrodden," as he prefers to paint himself. Although he has repeatedly described himself as anti-Duvalier, Aristide is in fact a perverse leftist reincarnation of the infamous "Papa Doc" Duvalier who helped destroy Haiti over recent decades—and he has the same sponsors to thank. Scratch beneath the surface of this well-educated, cosmopolitan Haitian, and one comes face to face with the quintessential "democrat" of George Bush's malthusian new world order: a raving genocidal maniac.

"Isn't it beautiful?" Aristide screamed to a mob of reporters from the steps of the National Palace, just days before his Sept. 30 overthrow. "Isn't it a beautiful instrument. It is fashionable, it smells good, and wherever you go you want to take it out. . . . Whatever they get, they deserve." Aristide was talking about "Père Lebrun," the Haitian nickname for the gruesome practice of "necklacing" one's enemies. Usually, the victim's arms are chopped off before a tire filled with gasoline is placed over his neck and set ablaze.

Aristide's supporters are notorious for hunting down political opponents and "giving them what they deserve," and it was precisely this threat which one such mob held over Haiti's national legislators last August, forcing them to disband before passing a vote of no-confidence in Aristide's choice for prime minister.

Should Aristide's "rhetoric" appear to be but a flair for the dramatic, it is worth noting that this so-called priest was famous for inciting his followers into protest riots which invariably ended in their own massacre. Aristide himself was always someplace else.

His poor origins notwithstanding, Aristide is highly educated, going from early training under the Salesian Order and a study of psychology at Haiti's State University, to advanced psychology studies in Canada and Israel. He speaks eight languages, and holds degrees in both psychology and theology. Although ordained as a Catholic priest in 1982, he was expelled from the Salesian Order in 1988 for his open advocacy of the Marxist "theology of liberation."

Despite his Christian trappings, Aristide heavily relies upon the "voodoo" superstitions of his supporters to build up his own image as a "demi-god." It is widely believed in Haiti that Aristide turned himself into a dog or other animal to



Stuart Lewis

*Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the White House.*

escape three separate assassination attempts in recent years.

The Bush administration is totally wedded to this voodoo democrat. The Oct. 8 *New York Times* admitted that "The Bush administration had invested a great deal of energy fostering Father Aristide," and it is a known fact that the U.S. State Department rushed to congratulate President Aristide on his electoral victory last Dec. 16—before the Haitian vote was even counted! Jimmy Carter and 1,000 "observers" descended on Haiti to monitor these elections and guarantee Aristide's victory; and the Georgia Democrat returned to Haiti two months later for Aristide's February 1991 inauguration.

Aristide has acted exactly as his Anglo-American backers have demanded. In May 1991, Aristide hosted a delegation of the drug-linked Anti-Defamation League, with whom he conversed at length in Hebrew. The ADL was seeking U.N. votes for rescinding resolution 3379 which equates Zionism with racism. The ADL's campaign, heartily promoted by George Bush, reportedly won Aristide's support as well.

And in September, Aristide embraced an International Monetary Fund austerity program for Haiti in exchange for a \$23 million standby loan. Outraged former parishioners of Aristide reportedly confronted him on this betrayal of his earlier electoral promises, to which he lamely responded that he was confident he could "turn the IMF to the people's advantage."