

RELEASE IN  
FULL

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT MARTELLY  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif; StateSeal.gif

Nice intro

**From:** SMART Core [mailto:svcSMARTBTsrctSPrec@state.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2011 09:23 AM

**To:** Kujawinski, Peter I

**Cc:** Adams, Thomas C; Alvarado, Rebecca B; Baker, Holli C; Bastien, Joelle-Elizabeth; Boris, John J; Convard, Nancy S; Farnsworth, Sarah W; Friedman, Daniel; Hibbert-Simpson, Lisa M; Kazemi, Shamim; Marsh, Victor L; McDonald, Kara C; Shah, Preeti V; Tucker-Bey, Nicola T; Williams, Stacy D; Wilson, Antoinette; Reynoso, Julissa; Mills, Cheryl D; Laszczuch, Joanne; Toiv, Nora F; OTTAWA-SMARTS; KINGSTON, SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; Port of Spain-SMARTS; PARAMARIBO-SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; ROME-SMARTS; Santiago-SMARTS; Nassau, SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; BUENOS AIRES-SMARTS; CARACAS-SMARTS; Belmopan-SMARTS; OSLO, SMARTS; HAVANA, SMARTS; GEORGETOWN-SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; GUATEMALA-SMARTS; MEXICOCITY, SMARTS; Santo Domingo, SMARTS; BRIDGETOWN, SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; PortauPrince, SMARTS

**Subject:** AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT MARTELLY

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**MRN:** 11 PORT AU PRINCE 504  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 07, 2011 / 071322Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, KDEM, HA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR S, C, WHA, S/HSC, PASS TO US SOUTHCOM FOR ISABEL CASSLE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT MARTELLY

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: President-elect Michel Martelly has organized a transition team focused on three areas: political, economic and social issues. He emphasized multiple times his interest in providing universal education to young Haitians. Martelly said his government seeks a strong and durable partnership with the United States, and thanked the U.S. for its support of an impartial political process. END SUMMARY.
2. (SBU) The Ambassador and Pol Chief met with President-elect Martelly on April 6, two days after preliminary results proclaimed him the victor by a large margin. Although the results are not considered final until April 15, Martelly's victory was sizable enough to dispel any lingering doubts regarding his status as President-elect. The

Ambassador congratulated Martelly on his victory, and complimented him especially on the inclusive tone of his April 5 press conference. Martelly said he intended to make communication with the Haitian people a priority, and said he would use the bully pulpit of his position to change the law-ignoring reflexes of many in Haitian society. "Tail lights on cars will not be an accessory item," said Martelly.

3. (SBU) Martelly said he would focus on job creation, on the rule of law and on education. Regarding job creation, Martelly said he welcomed the advice of the United States, and said he wanted to change the image of Haiti so that misery and the earthquake damage were not the leading symbols of Haiti in the world. He said he would focus on development in the northern and southern regions of the country because of their potential, but also to reduce the pressures on the greater Port-au-Prince area.
4. (SBU) Regarding rule of law, Martelly said Haitians needed to change their mentality that laws were meant to be ignored. Paying and collecting taxes will be a requirement of all citizens, although Martelly said this would be accompanied by real investment by the Haitian government to show the impact of tax revenue. Martelly also dismissed his advisor's suggestion that he be immediately given an official vehicle. His administration would be clean, and those appointed in it would not be there for personal gain, Martelly vowed. He added that he supported the Constitutional amendments and would lobby for their passage.
5. (SBU) Martelly particularly focused on the importance of education in Haiti. He proudly described a pilot program already begun with private funds that would subsidize children in the north and south of Haiti who were not already attending schools. Martelly said he would finally implement the Haitian Constitution, which calls for the universal education of Haitian youth.
6. (SBU) COMMENT: Martelly and his team were clearly in a good mood, buoyed by their significant victory over Myrlande Manigat. They were grateful for U.S. support of the political process, and very interested in a strong partnership with the U.S. Although Martelly focused on education, he also agreed that development was impossible without significant investment, and he seemed particularly interested by our development programs in the north and in our electrification programs. Martelly's gifts of communication will come in handy in the ensuing months and years. He recognized that some of his proposals might cause his popularity to diminish, especially the ones reinstating long-lapsed tax collection. However, in the excitement of this victory, these battles were in the future, and in the present, his team was excited and ready to work. END COMMENT.

**Signature:** MERTEN

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