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PRESS RELEASE

USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno pays visit to Cap-Haïtien

Cap-Haïtien, 25 June 2005 – The Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno today visited the northern city of Cap-Haïtien where he saw the Haitian National Police (HNP) sub-station at Pont Neuf, the Chilean Military Community project at “La Fossette” and the Electoral Bureau (BED) before he met with the delegate of the northern department, Mr. Wilbert O. Joseph and the mayor of Cap-Haïtien, Mr. Aspil Fleurant. A visit to the Chilean Contingent of MINUSTAH in the North as well as a briefing with the MINUSTAH staff and Civilian Police (CivPol) in Cap-Haïtien completed his tour of the second largest city in Haiti.

The Under Secretary-General today was accompanied by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdes, when they first visited the very poorly equipped HNP sub-station at Pont Neuf to verify the needs for this strategically important location.

At the centre of the “La Fossette” neighborhood Mr Guéhenno was briefed about the successful Chilean Military Community project to turn a once neighborhood garbage-dump into a football and basketball field for the youth of the community. In a discussion with the community leader, the USG was encouraged to hear about the willingness of all in the neighborhood to work for a better future.

The visitors then went to see the Departmental Electoral Centre and carefully listened to many different staff about their work and their experience with the registration of voters. Mr Guéhenno stated clearly that “successful democratic elections are the only possible way to a successful democratic government for Haiti”.

During the meeting with the delegate of the northern department, Mr. Wilbert O. Joseph and the mayor of Cap-Haïtien, Mr. Aspil Fleurant, the USG was very pleased to hear about the fruitful cooperation between all MINUSTAH sectors in the North and the local authorities. Talking about the recently renewed mandate for MINUSTAH, Jean-Marie Guéhenno stressed that “the new mandate gives us more possibilities for improving the security in Haiti.”

USG Guéhenno and Ambassador Valdés also paid a visit to the Chilean Contingent of MINUSTAH in Cap-Haïtien. They were briefed about the contingent’s achievements for the people of Haiti and the accomplishments and challenges in providing a safe and secure environment for their Area of Responsibility, in particular in the light of the upcoming elections and the area of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

Before his departure, Mr Guéhenno thanked all regional staff of MINUSTAH military, CivPol and the civilian sections for their dedication and their committed work for Haiti’s future.

For additional information related to this matter, please contact Christian Lindmeier, the MINUSTAH Regional Information Officer in Cap Haïtien. E-mail : lindmeier@un.org Mobile: (509) 526-4207

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