

MARCH 2, 2004

**SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -
HAITI**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued today's "Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day" on Haiti.

□ According to a report in the Washington Post today, Secretary of State Colin Powell said that Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide did a "wise and patriotic thing" by agreeing to leave his nation. □ Powell also stated that it was "baseless" and "absurd" that the United States forced Aristide out of power.

According to the Center for American Progress, however:

The Bush Administration does not deny that it [rapidly changed its position](#) and helped force Aristide out, going so far as to issue a ["harsh statement"](#)

blaming the turmoil on the Haitian president. The question that remains, however, is why did the Administration back a rebel force made up of [death-squad veterans and convicted murderers](#) over a democratically-elected government?

[Schakowsky said](#)

, "While it is unclear exactly what happened early Sunday morning, the message from the U.S. to President Aristide was crystal clear: the U.S. won't protect you from being killed by the assassins that are on your doorstep."