

2-21-1989

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Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Haiti: Cabinet Reshuffled." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/2751>

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Haiti: Cabinet Reshuffled

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, February 21, 1989

On Feb. 18, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril reshuffled his cabinet for the first time since he came to power in a coup last September. According to a report by radio station Haiti-Inter, Col. Acedius Saint-Louis was named defense and interior minister, and Augustin Roman Ceme as new justice minister. Saint-Louis, information minister under Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, was denounced as repressive by the presidential guardsmen who ousted Namphy, and removed from his office at army headquarters. The radio report said Gilbert Austin, former justice minister, was appointed president of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Opposition leader Daniel Narcisse was named assistant commissioner of the newly-created Commission for Haitians Abroad. According to AP, the most unpopular of Avril's cabinet members, including Information Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, remained in office. In the past month, Haiti has witnessed a wave of anti-government demonstrations and two general strikes. (Basic data from AP, 02/18/89)

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