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## **Haiti: Note On Casualty Toll In Fighting Between Loyalist & Rebel Soldiers**

*by John Neagle*

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Unidentified hospital sources told AFP on April 11 that some 40 people died and 100 were wounded in the week-long fighting between the loyalist Presidential Guard and rebels in the Leopards Corps and Dessalines Barracks. Capital residents were spectators, and the political parties and the Roman Catholic Church had little effect on the course of the internal war. Unidentified observers said the Church, which served as a rallying point against the Duvalier dictatorship three years ago, has lost its unity. Catholic clergy are divided between a conservative hierarchy and more activist priests. Politicians are divided by personal ambitions. Socialist leader Serges Gilles was among the strongest supporters of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril. The source of the rebellion, he said, was the "sector of duvalierism." On April 10, US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the government was considering increasing aid. US aid to Haiti for the 1989 fiscal year, which ends in October, totals \$38.6 million, and is being distributed through private, voluntary and non-governmental organizations, he said. The funds are going to food and economic development. (Basic data from AFP, 04/11/89)

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