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Haiti: Major Cabinet Reshuffle

by John Neagle

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On Dec. 19, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril presided over the swearing-in of seven new ministers, the police chief and a high-level army officer. The changes were announced late Dec. 18 over the government-run television station. Franck Paultre, former public works minister, replaced Leonce Thelusma as finance minister. Thelusma was criticized for accepting conditions contained in an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, and his foreign currency control program. Brig. Gen. Fritz Romulus, former airport chief was newly promoted from colonel, replacing Brig. Gen. Acedius Saint-Louis as defense and interior minister. Saint-Louis was described as ineffective in fighting urban gangsterism. Serge Petit-Frere replaced Remy Zamor as education minister. Public school teachers complained that Zamor was authoritarian, and resoundingly rejected an his insurance plan. Teachers have organized several strikes, asserting that the government has not fulfilled salary agreements. Ministers of commerce, planning, agriculture and public administration were also replaced. Col. Henri Robert Augustin, the police chief, was replaced by Lt. Col. Martial Romulus, who was military attache at the Haitian Embassy in Washington. Maj. Gen. Max Valles, one of Haiti's nine generals, was retired. (Basic data from AP, 12/19/89)

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