

Rangel says CIA undermines Clinton policy in Haiti

WASHINGTON — Cong. Charles Rangel (D-NY) accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of undermining President Clinton's policy in Haiti and defaming President Aristide.

The New York lawmaker said he was also "greatly concerned" about persistent rumors of CIA involvement in the September 1991 coup that overthrew President Aristide and called on the intelligence agency to refute the charges. Cong. Rangel's statements were contained in a letter to CIA Director James Woolsey.

Referring to press reports of CIA briefings of Members of Congress that questioned the mental stability of President Aristide, Cong. Rangel said, "The information conveyed has had an effect not only defamatory to President Aristide but serving to undermine U.S. policy in Haiti.

"Allegations of this nature, under any circumstances, would raise serious questions, not only about their source, corroboration and timing but also about the motivation behind them," Cong. Rangel said.

"In this instance, these fac-

tors are even more germane in view of the well-known opposition in some quarters of the previous

administration to President Aristide's candidacy and support of one of his opponents; as well as the prolonged insistence that Gen. Raoul Cedras — though acknowledged to be the leader of the coup — had to be a part of the solution," Cong. Rangel said.

"In addition, we are greatly concerned about persistent rumors that the CIA itself either supported, or was involved in, the coup that overthrew President Aristide."



Cong. Charles Rangel