**Haitian Declaration of Independence**

**Gonaïves, January 1, 1804**

**Year I of Independence**

Today, January 1, 1804, the General in Chief of the Indigenous Army, accompanied by generals and army chiefs gathered in order to take measures tending [relating] to the happiness of the country:

After having made known to the assembled generals his true intention of forever ensuring to the natives of Haiti a stable government — the object of his greatest solicitude [concern], which he did in a speech that made known to foreign powers the resolution to render [make] the country independent, and to enjoy the liberty consecrated [made holy] by the blood of the people of this island; and, after having gathered their opinions, asked each of the assembled generals to pronounce a vow to forever renounce France; to die rather than to live under its domination; and to fight for independence with their last breath.

The generals, imbued [filled] with these sacred principles, after having with one voice given their adherence [loyalty] to the... project of independence, have all sworn before eternity and before the entire universe to forever renounce France and to die rather than live under its domination...