

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 472				
Document ID: 9403094				
Stack: V	Row: 44	Section: 4	Shelf: 3	Position: 3

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: JORDAN, BARBARA

DOC DATE: 15 APR 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: REFUGEES
HUMAN RIGHTS

HAITI

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM US COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

ACTION: NFAR PER SCHWARTZ

DUE DATE: 22 APR 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: PREPARE REPLY FOR PRES SIG ASAP - URGENT

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJEB

CLOSED BY: NSDRS

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9403094

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 SCHWARTZ
001

Z 94042212 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 94042419 NFAR PER SCHWARTZ

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: JORDAN, BARBARA

DOC DATE: 15 APR 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: REFUGEES
HUMAN RIGHTS

HAITI

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM US COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 22 APR 94 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
SCHWARTZ

FOR CONCURRENCE
CLARKE
HALPERIN
ROSSIN

FOR INFO
FEINBERG
KRECZKO

COMMENTS: PREPARE REPLY FOR PRES SIG ASAP - URGENT

*Return to Records Management for closure. OBE'D.
Shortly after this letter was received,
there ~~for~~ were 2 changes, in succession, in the
direction recommended by Jordan. We have
Since had subsequent contact w/
the U.S. Commission
on this issue. Discussed
also w/
DPC
staff.*

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJEB

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # _____

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Reed	_____	_____	_____
Kenney	_____	_____	_____
Itoh	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Lake	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	1	_____	Staff
NSC Secretariat	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

Schwartz
Prepare reply for
President's sig

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

ASAP





THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/20

U.S. COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 511

Washington, DC 20009-5708

TEL (202) 673-5348 • FAX (202) 673-5354

KB-4/22

CCV D
Therese
Hector
to copy
B

April 15, 1994

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When you appointed me to serve as Chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, you asked for my best advice on the pressing immigration matters facing this country. I am writing now to urge reconsideration of the Administration's policy on Haitian boat people. I hasten to add that I am writing for myself not the Commission as a whole. While the Commission will address issues related to mass migration emergencies in our September 1994 report, we have not as yet discussed our specific recommendations.

The human rights situation in Haiti is deteriorating. The military government appears bent on blocking delivery of humanitarian assistance while the embargo continues. The combination of physical violence and economic dislocation renders many Haitians vulnerable. Without a political solution, the suffering will only mount. And, for a political solution to occur, it may well be necessary to tighten the very conditions that produce the suffering.

At a recent consultation in Miami, the Commission heard a great deal of testimony about the differential treatment accorded Haitians and Cubans. Even the Cuban experts at the meeting conceded that the conditions in Haiti are far worse than those in Cuba, yet U.S. policy provides substantial benefits to those fleeing Cuba while interdicting and returning Haitians without determining if they have valid need for protection. Administration denials notwithstanding, the differential treatment led many participants to charge racism in the immigration policy -- a charge that is difficult to refute given available evidence.

What is unfortunate is that entry into the United States is not the only solution to the Haitian refugee problem. With sufficient political will and your personal leadership, protection could be provided within the region rather than on our shores. Representatives from the State Department described to the Commission the efforts that were made during the Bush Administration to seek a regional solution. They seemed to be too few and certainly inadequate to the task. In previous situations where the U.S. has asked other countries to provide

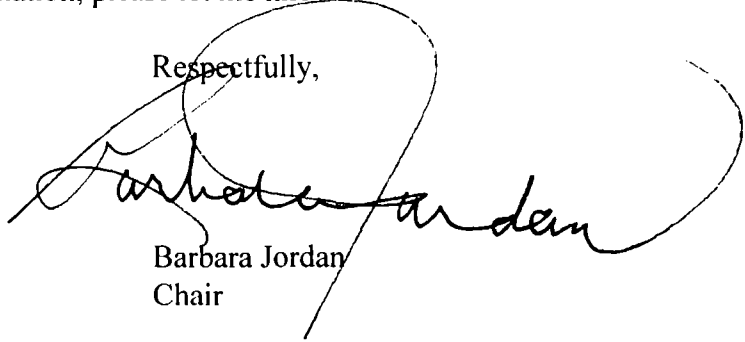
PHOTOCOPY WJC HANDWRITING

protection to refugees, it was the personal intervention of the American President or Vice President that led to results. I understand that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has already pledged her help in establishing centers for Haitian boat people if a nearby government agrees to their presence. I urge you to pursue this possibility.

Mr. President, this letter stems from my deep belief that we share the same principles and respect for human and civil rights. U.S. immigration policy should also support these principles.

I plan to keep this letter as a confidential communication between us. If I can provide you additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully,

A large, fluid handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Barbara Jordan', is written over the typed name and title.

Barbara Jordan
Chair

U.S. COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 511

Washington, DC 20009-5708

Mr. President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

DRAFT

May 2, 1994

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: RICHARD CLARKE

FROM: ERIC SCHWARTZ

SUBJECT: Letter of Response to Barbara Jordon

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum to the President with his response to Barbara Jordan, Chair, U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. She wrote to him on April 15th regarding the Administration's policy on the Haitian boat people.

Concurrences by: Larry Rossin

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

Attachments

Tab I	Memorandum to the President
Tab A	Letter to Ms. Jordan
Tab B	Incoming correspondence

DRAFT

DRAFT

3094

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Letter of Response to Barbara Jordan

Purpose

To respond to Barbara Jordan's letter of April 15 regarding the Administration's policy toward the Haitian boat people.

Background

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Ms. Jordan at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Ms. Jordan

Tab B Incoming Letter from Ms. Jordan

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

DRAFT

DRAFT

30946t

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. You have focused on one basic dilemmas of our Haiti policy. How do we deal with Haiti boat people fleeing a repressive and intolerable political and economic environment?

Since I took office, we have tried to focus on the root problems in Haiti -- the illegal government in Port au Prince. We have recently escalated our efforts to restore democracy with a call for a total trade embargo by the UN. We have not ruled out other options, including the use of force.

In that context, we have tried to deal with Haitian migration with several considerations in mind. First, we are deeply concerned about the dangers of mass boat migration from a humanitarian and safety perspective. Large scale movement of overcrowded, often unseaworthy boats will put thousands of Haitians in danger, and we have strong indications that large numbers would leave if sea exit to the US were unimpeded. Second, that mass entry -- primarily in Florida -- would put further severe stress on already heavily overloaded state and local social services. Third, we believe that a mass exodus would lessen the pressures on the military to change. Consequently, while we recognize that some Haitians will avoid Coast Guard and Navy vessels and reach the Bahamas and the U.S. we continue to view a policy of direct return as the best method of preventing a mass boat migration.

Allowing Haitians to go to other countries would not solve this problem either. Diplomatic soundings indicate no willingness by other regional states to set up camps or other temporary facilities. Moreover, any such camp might be quickly overwhelmed by numbers if immigration were unimpeded.

At the same time, there is a process whereby political refugees can immigrate to the U.S. We now have three processing centers in Haiti to look at asylum requests. We have answered over 55,000 inquiries, processed over 15,000 applicants, and granted

DRAFT

DRAFT

refugee status to over 2,900 people. This process has just been looked at by a member of my staff, and further improvements are underway.

I know that critics point to the differential treatment accorded Cubans and Haitians and ask why. I know that some believe this policy is racist, but I also know that appearances and reality are not the same. There is not a threat of mass migration from Cuba. If there were, our concerns would be similar. Second, the Cuban government response to returned migrants is more harsh than to returned Haitians, press reports to the contrary notwithstanding. This is not to say that Haitian military repression of the population is not horrible and strongly opposed and condemned by the U.S. The repression is, however, uneven and not directed at those returned as far as we can determine.

Barbara, this is not a perfect policy, but we do not live in a perfect world. We have our Haitian policy under constant review. If the government begins to crack down on returned boat migrants, if the violence becomes unacceptable, then we will adjust. But for now we want to force the military out and return President Aristide through sanctions, and we need to push this effort vigorously to give it a chance.

Please stay in touch. And I do appreciate your letter and your leadership of the Commission on Immigration reform.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Barbara Jordan
Chair
U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform
1823 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-5708

DRAFT



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/20

3094

U.S. COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 511

Washington, DC 20009-5708

TEL (202) 673-5348 • FAX (202) 673-5354

April 15, 1994

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When you appointed me to serve as Chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, you asked for my best advice on the pressing immigration matters facing this country. I am writing now to urge reconsideration of the Administration's policy on Haitian boat people. I hasten to add that I am writing for myself not the Commission as a whole. While the Commission will address issues related to mass migration emergencies in our September 1994 report, we have not as yet discussed our specific recommendations.

The human rights situation in Haiti is deteriorating. The military government appears bent on blocking delivery of humanitarian assistance while the embargo continues. The combination of physical violence and economic dislocation renders many Haitians vulnerable. Without a political solution, the suffering will only mount. And, for a political solution to occur, it may well be necessary to tighten the very conditions that produce the suffering.

At a recent consultation in Miami, the Commission heard a great deal of testimony about the differential treatment accorded Haitians and Cubans. Even the Cuban experts at the meeting conceded that the conditions in Haiti are far worse than those in Cuba, yet U.S. policy provides substantial benefits to those fleeing Cuba while interdicting and returning Haitians without determining if they have valid need for protection. Administration denials notwithstanding, the differential treatment led many participants to charge racism in the immigration policy -- a charge that is difficult to refute given available evidence.

What is unfortunate is that entry into the United States is not the only solution to the Haitian refugee problem. With sufficient political will and your personal leadership, protection could be provided within the region rather than on our shores. Representatives from the State Department described to the Commission the efforts that were made during the Bush Administration to seek a regional solution. They seemed to be too few and certainly inadequate to the task. In previous situations where the U.S. has asked other countries to provide

Flake
Need to consider
and in 1994

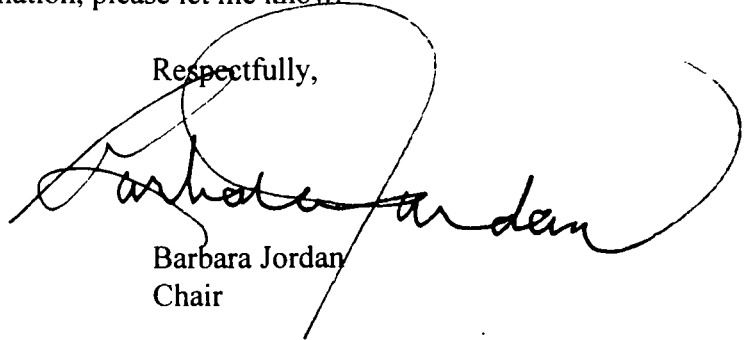
CCVP
Thaler
11/11/94
to
B

protection to refugees, it was the personal intervention of the American President or Vice President that led to results. I understand that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has already pledged her help in establishing centers for Haitian boat people if a nearby government agrees to their presence. I urge you to pursue this possibility.

Mr. President, this letter stems from my deep belief that we share the same principles and respect for human and civil rights. U.S. immigration policy should also support these principles.

I plan to keep this letter as a confidential communication between us. If I can provide you additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully,

A large, fluid handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Barbara Jordan". The signature is written over the word "Respectfully," and extends to the right, ending in a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Barbara Jordan
Chair