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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9404125
RECEIVED: 25 MAY 94 11

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: GINGRICH, NEWT

DOC DATE: 18 MAY 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI
CO

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CONCERNS RE PLAN TO CHARTER UKRAINIAN SHIPS TO PROCESS HAITIAN
REFUGEES

ACTION: SEL 9403938 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 28 MAY 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CLARKE

LOGREF: 9403938

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION

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COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9404125

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 CLARKE
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 94052511 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 94062812 SEE 9403938 FOR FINAL ACTION

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CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

GRIC
FOR ACTION
CLARKE

FOR CONCURRENCE

HALPERIN
ROSNER
ROSSIN
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO

DANVERS
FEINBERG
ITOH
KENNEY

COMMENTS:

Consolidated w/ 3938 per Eric Schwartz

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJWF

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

SENT BY TO: ROSEN/DAVERO

NEWT GINGRICH
SIXTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

THE REPUBLICAN WHIP

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1006
(202) 225-4501*Who is Gingrich?*
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4125

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 18, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am extremely concerned about the methods, cost, and safety of your Administration's plans to charter two Ukrainian passenger ships, the MV GRUZIYA and the MV IVAN FRANCO, for at sea processing ships for the Haitian refugees. Despite the charter of these foreign ships, we currently have no method of accommodating, at sea, the thousands of expected Haitian citizens who might attempt to travel to the United States. Additionally, the fulfillment of your pledge to allow each Haitian boat person a full hearing to determine if they are a political refugee places a potentially tremendous burden on the federal agencies involved, especially the Coast Guard and Navy.

However, my most significant concern involves the safety of both the Haitian citizens and American personnel. The boarding of the passenger ship from small boats, the interior security, and the significant health hazardous that will be present in the cramped quarters of a vessel make this selection totally unsuitable for this mission. The requirement to provide fresh water in sufficient quantity may be an additional burden since these ships will not be able to manufacture their own should they be stationed at anchor in a harbor. I am especially concerned about the very real need to provide crowd control in a highly compartmented ship and the potentially explosive and tragic results of an unruly or uncooperative demonstration by the Haitian refugees who are not found to be fully qualified for political refugee status.

More disturbing is the overall effect that these long term commitments will have on the morale, military readiness, and deployability of U.S. Naval forces. As overseas commitments increase, defense budgets decline, and the time out of homeport rises dramatically, I believe that we risk seeing some of our most talented personnel depart in frustration, further hollowing out Naval forces.

Moreover, the amount of time needed to provide a full safety net of Naval vessels around the coast of Haiti will divert these

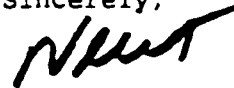
President Bill Clinton
May 18, 1994
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units from deployment preparations, joint training requirements, and necessary maintenance. The hidden costs of interdicting, providing for safety at sea, and assuming responsibility for the thousands of boat people who will see your "at sea" policy as an invitation to depart Haiti may be significant.

I strongly urge the Administration to consider the proposal put forth by Representative Porter Goss that would create a "safe haven" for political refugees on Haitian soil. The island of L'Ile de la Gonave could be utilized to provide a base for the Aristide government on Haitian soil and to provide a safe haven for refugees without endangering U.S. personnel.

I look forward to being of assistance. However, I hope that you will seriously reconsider your "at sea" processing policy.

Sincerely,



Newt Gingrich

NG:jkh

Glenn Staff

Clarke

(vice Rossin)

W Rossin (unavailable)
Rossin / Danvers