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RECORD ID: 9404994
RECEIVED: 21 JUN 94 19

TO: LAKE

FROM: WILHELM, DAVID

DOC DATE: 10 JUN 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI
MP

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE POSITION ON HAITIAN REFUGEES

ACTION: NFAR PER ROSSIN

DUE DATE: 24 JUN 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: ROSSIN

LOGREF:

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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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9404994

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 ROSSIN
001

Z 94062119 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 94062217 NFAR PER ROSSIN

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DOC 1 OF 1

DEMOCRATIC ★ NATIONAL ★ COMMITTEE

David Wilhelm, Chairman

Staff w/adv. cy
to T. Lake
4994

June 10, 1994

The Honorable Anthony Lake
Director
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Tony:

Enclosed please find a letter I received from John Otranto, Executive Director of Global Care e.V., that I believe merits your attention.

Mr. Otranto has forwarded his ideas concerning the Coast Guard's position vis-a-vis Haitian refugees, and has requested that a meeting take place between the President and the new Commander of the Coast Guard to discuss the United States' policy toward Haitian asylum seekers.

I hope that you will keep this request in mind as you work with the President on this issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

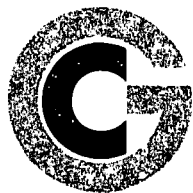


David Wilhelm

DW/sh

cc:Ricki Seidman





GLOBAL CARE

Committee Against Radioactive Energy

CR
Trausnitzstrasse 8
81671 München
Germany
Tel. 49-89-403656
Fax 49-89-495470

Mr. David Wilhelm, Chairman
Democratic National Committee
430 S. Capital Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

9 May 1994

Dear David,

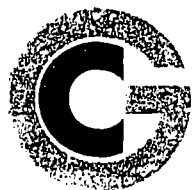
I sent the enclosed letter to Admiral Bob Kramek, the man selected to be the new Commandant of the Coast Guard because as officers together for twenty years, I know Bob to be an exceptional person. I believe he must see the Coast Guard's position vis-a-vis Haitian refugees fleeing by sea as untenable and even immoral. I would hope that he will decide to speak with the President about the U.S. policy toward Haitian asylum seekers and that you would facilitate the meeting.

With best regards,

John Otranto, CDR, USCG (Ret.)

Executive Director, GLOBAL CARE e.V.

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RADM Robert Kramek
Commandant (G-CCS), US Coast Guard
2100 Second Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

5 May 1994

Dear Bob,

My heartiest congratulations on your selection to Commandant. As the new Commandant you will be confronted with many difficult issues particularly one which I wish to address: the Coast Guard's ethically questionable role in implementing the Clinton Administration's policy toward asylum-seeking Haitians. Over 200 celebrities from the entertainment industry, the Congressional Black Caucus, other members of Congress as well as national social and religious leaders are now actively expressing their belief that the U.S. policy is not only improper, it is morally bankrupt; some have labeled it "racist."

The United States' post-WW II foreign policy, which drives the Administration's response vis-a-vis Haiti, has not been well investigated, debated or understood by most Americans. Few know for example that State Department planning chief George Kennan declared in 1948: "(We) have about 50 percent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3 percent of its population. In this situation, we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our task is...to maintain this position of disparity without detriment to our national security...We need not deceive ourselves that we can afford the luxury of altruism and world-benefaction. *We should cease to talk about vague and...unreal objectives, such as human rights, the raising of living standards and democratization.*" Kennan and his equally Machiavellian successor, Paul Nitze, have heavily influenced U.S. foreign policy for nearly 5 decades. Predictably, Warren Christopher declared "economics" as the main U.S. foreign policy priority. On the other hand, Christopher Layne and Benjamin Schwarz, in "American Hegemony - Without an Enemy" (*Foreign Policy*, Fall 1993) are part of a rising chorus of voices urging open debate on America's unrealistic, self-destructive foreign policy.

Daniel Yankelovich points out in "Imperatives of a Global Economy" (*Foreign Affairs*, Fall 1992), "There exists (among Americans) a deeply intuitive sense that the success of a market-based economy depends on a highly developed social morality - trustworthiness, honesty, concern for future generations, *an ethic of service to others, a humane society that takes care of those in need*, frugality instead of greed, high standards of quality and concern for community." The burgeoning interest in moral values is not solely an American phenomenon, but is, as expressed

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unanimously by the members and secretariat of the Commission on Global Governance, of global concern. It's no coincidence that the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts is sponsoring a series of national discussions on traditional American and moral values.

I mention all this to establish the context in which I see injustice and what I believe is an improper, immoral assignment for the Coast Guard.

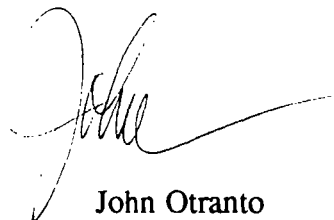
The brutal suppression of Haitians by its dictatorial elite is viewed by the civilized world as an immoral and illegal violation of human rights. Forcing fleeing Haitians to return to a murderous régime clearly subjects them to increased risks of torture and execution; such policing is as unjust as the actions of the dominating Haitian military. I urge you to consider the wisdom of the Coast Guard's complicity in this policy of disregard for human rights and safety. It flies in the face of the care for humanity the Coast Guard represents. At the very least, it is devoid of compassion.

Perhaps the Administration's policy is a dilemma for you; surely you can not avoid questioning its dubious morality. Your conscience won't permit it nor will your constituency, the American people, nor will the law. "Just following orders" was no defense in the Nurnberg "crimes against humanity" trials and is no defense in 1994.

I think Bill Clinton is a reasonable man; I think he would listen carefully if you told him you have great difficulty with the policy regarding Haitians fleeing by sea. And I think you have no ethical choice but to do exactly that.

I'm sending a copy of this letter to David Wilhelm, the person who successfully managed Bill Clinton's election campaign and is now Chair of the Democratic National Committee, because I believe David would be sensitive to your dilemma and the plight of Haitians seeking asylum. I think David is one person who could broker a meeting between you and the president at which the current policy could be revised. Such a move would be courageous; on the other hand it is nothing more than Americans expect of their leaders.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Otranto', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Otranto

Executive Director, GLOBAL CARE e.V.

cc: David Wilhelm