

# FOIA MARKER

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| Original OA/ID Number:<br>203 |            |               |             |                |
|                               |            |               |             |                |
| Document ID: 9405479          |            |               |             |                |
| Stack:<br>V                   | Row:<br>44 | Section:<br>3 | Shelf:<br>5 | Position:<br>1 |

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9405479  
RECEIVED: 07 JUL 94 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: TORRICELLI, ROBERT G

DOC DATE: 28 JUN 94  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI  
CO

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP TORRICELLI RE REFUGEES LEAVING HAITI

ACTION: ORIGINALS RETURNED TO NSC/S

DUE DATE: 11 JUL 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ

LOGREF: 9405475

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

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY: NSDRS

DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9405479

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

|              |                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 001 ROSSIN   | Z 94070716 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE        |
| 001          | Z 94070816 ACTION TRANSFERRED           |
| 001 SCHWARTZ | Z 94070816 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE        |
| 001          | Z 94080414 SEE 9405475 FOR FINAL ACTION |
| 001          | X 94121417 ORIGINALS RETURNED TO NSC/S  |

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LOGREF:

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NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION  
SCHWARTZ

FOR CONCURRENCE  
CLARKE  
DANVERS  
HALPERIN  
ROSSIN

FOR INFO  
FEINBERG  
KENNEY

COMMENTS:

AUG 4 1994

*Answered in 5475-22 July 94 / mgn for ERS*

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

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DOC 1 OF 1

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\_\_\_\_\_

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CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI  
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN  
HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS  
SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY  
SELECT INTELLIGENCE



WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2155 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3009  
202-225-6001  
DISTRICT OFFICES  
COURT PLAZA  
26 MAIN STREET  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601  
201-848-1111  
144 PATH PLAZA  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306  
201-222-8100

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

June 28, 1994

Washington, DC 20515-3009

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The recent surge in the number of refugees leaving Haiti for a dangerous journey at sea is obviously of great concern to the United States. According to published reports, the number of Haitians intercepted at sea by the United States Coast Guard has increased from an average of 50 per day to over 1,000 yesterday. These vast numbers of refugees are placing an unbearable burden on our shipboard processing facilities, and they are also creating a humanitarian crisis.

It is my understanding that an agreement will soon be reached with President Aristide to beam "Radio Democracy" broadcasts to Haiti. I urge you to include in those broadcasts a message warning Haitian citizens of the dangers they face by leaving their country in rickety boats at sea.

It is overwhelmingly in the national interest of the United States to reduce the number of refugees leaving Haiti. The shipboard processing facilities established by your Administration simply cannot handle a flood of refugees that approaches 1,000 per day. It is also questionable whether Florida and other states that will become home to those who are granted refugee status can handle such large numbers without adequate resources and adequate time to prepare. It is therefore essential that the number of people leaving Haiti to seek political asylum in the United States be reduced to more reasonable levels.

This is also a grave humanitarian issue. Most of those who are leaving Haiti are doing so in rickety boats with little food and water. Indeed, a sizable number of those picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard are dehydrated and in need of immediate medical attention. Ironically, many of those who are leaving Haiti do not understand that they will only obtain political asylum if they have been politically persecuted, and not solely because they are living in extreme poverty. Haitian citizens must realize that they are placing themselves at great risk by taking to the high seas, and that adequate resources may not exist to rescue them and properly care for them.

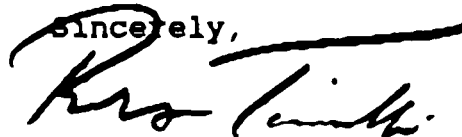
President William J. Clinton  
June 28, 1994  
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Mr. President, I applaud you for your decision to beam radio broadcasts to Haiti. Like Radio Free Europe and Radio Marti, the new Radio Democracy could be an effective means of bringing hope to an oppressed people and furthering opposition to a dictatorial regime.

I am disappointed, however, that your Administration has apparently agreed to refrain from transmitting a message to discourage an influx of refugees because of objections from President Aristide. This message is essential not only to avert a refugee crisis in our own country, but to protect thousands of Haitians from a deadly journey at sea. Mr. Aristide should be thanking us for our efforts to assist him in this manner, rather than issuing threats and criticizing Administration policy.

Mr. President, I urge you to include a strong warning to those considering a dangerous escape from Haiti in your Radio Democracy broadcasts to the island. This is firmly in the best interest of the United States and it is clearly the correct policy from a humanitarian standpoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Torricelli", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI  
Member of Congress