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Original OA/ID Number: 210				
Document ID: 9406813				
Stack: v	Row: 44	Section: 3	Shelf: 7	Position: 2

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9406813
RECEIVED: 22 AUG 94 18

TO: WILKINSON, BETTY

FROM: LAKE

DOC DATE: 11 OCT 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA
MP

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LTR URGING CHANGES IN US POLICY TWD CUBA

ACTION: LAKE SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 25 AUG 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HALPERIN

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

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
HALPERIN
MALLEY
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY RB DATE 10/12 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDRS

CLOSED BY: NSJEB

DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9406813

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HALPERIN
002 LAKE
003

Z 94082218 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 94100611 FOR SIGNATURE
X 94101214 LAKE SGD LTR

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 941011 WILKINSON, BETTY

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

rec'd 10-11
4:30 PM

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 6813
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PR9 NSC INT
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG OPS A/O _____

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Sens			
Itoh			
Soderberg	<u>8</u>	<u>HAS SEEN</u>	
Berger	<u>9</u>	<u>Natl Sec Advisor has seen</u>	
<u>RL</u> Lake			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>10</u>	<u>OPS 10/11</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>11</u>		

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

CC: _____

COMMENTS:

11 OCT 94 23 39

11 OCT 94 23 39

R -
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N.

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

National Security Council
The White House

rec'd 107
11:15Am

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 6813 10/8 9:30

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM (PR\$) NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG 012 A/O

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Reed	1	JWR	
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Itoh			
Soderberg	2	copy	
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481 Lake	4		changes
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	5		
NSC Secretariat			
1 dalpen/male 6			F.F.A.D
			see TC note on letter

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

CC: _____

COMMENTS:

10/10/80 10:40

10/10/80 10:40

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1994

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your letter regarding American policy toward Cuba. While both the President and I share your concern for the well-being of the Cuban people, we remain convinced that our current policies are best suited to advance our common goal of a democratic, free and prosperous Cuba.

The decisions announced by the President on August 20, 1994, and the subsequent migration agreement reached with the Cuban government, are consistent with this long-standing objective. The careful application of sanctions is designed to pressure the Cuban government and cut off the supply of foreign currency it uses to support its failed economy. At the same time, the agreement will both stem the perilous flight of Cubans on unseaworthy vessels and enable Cubans to migrate in a safe and legal manner.

Let me also assure you that both the President and I remain firmly committed to the free exchange of ideas and information with the people of Cuba. Travel for educational or research purposes will continue to be permitted under the same standards as before, and we will intensify our efforts to reach out to the Cuban people.

I appreciate your concerns and assure you that the President and I are devoted to the task of moving toward a democratic Cuba and resuming normal relations with a freely elected Cuban government.

Sincerely,



Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

Ms. Betty Wilkinson
1633 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

6813

October 4, 1994

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: MORTON HALPERIN *in*

FROM: ROBERT MALLEY *m*

SUBJECT: Response to a Letter Urging Changes in U.S. Policy
Toward Cuba

Attached is a reply for your signature to a letter recommending changes in U.S. policy regarding the economic embargo of Cuba and toward Cuban refugees.

asm
Concurrence by: Manuel Rocha

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the response at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Proposed Response

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Staff to Mort Italperin

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August 19, 1994
1633 Diamond St.
S. F. CA 94131

1-415-826-7960 (TEL)

1-415-647-4435 (FAX)

The Honorable Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The White House 20500

FAX: 1-202-456-2883

Dear Mr. Lake:

I am a former International Services Volunteer (Viet Nam '66-'68) and Fulbright teacher at the University of Dalat (Viet Nam - '68-'72). For many years after I left K&L in 1971, I felt great sorrow for the situation I left behind and the grieved over the hardships and suffering of friends and family I left behind. I returned in 1989-1990 with John McAuliffe's group in an effort to normalize relations between the government of Viet Nam and the United States. After my return, I put all my effort into lifting the embargo so that the hardships of the people there would be lightened.

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I know that you, too, worked for those same ends - as an I.V.S. director and in other capacities. I was overjoyed last Sunday when I was able to call my Vietnamese family in their home in Mỹ Tho and talk to them as I do my own family here. No one would have believed this possible 2 years ago. These were some of the people who cared for me, fed me, protected me, and made my life there possible. Yet, for so many years, I could only grieve over their situation, not contact them for fear of putting them in danger. The agony of those years is still fresh.

And now, we have a similar situation in Cuba. I believe that any innocent blood that is shed and the suffering of the people of Cuba is on the hands of those who can stop it and do not. Once again, I am putting all that I have into an effort to lift that odious embargo. I intend to go there as soon as possible to see the situation for my self and do what I, as a simple schoolteacher, can do. My Spanish is not as fluent as my Vietnamese, ~~but~~ its

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improving by the day. The Freedom to Travel Group has a trip planned for October 1st. I may go with them or I may go alone. I am encouraging all my friends to go in the hopes that the more American citizens there, the less likely the chance for the U.S. government to do stupid things. The rumors of invasion seize my heart. I trust you will not allow this. I've followed your career closely and believe you a man of integrity and decency... and the President as well. I also believe that Fidel Castro is ready to go. He, like the old crocodiles in Hawaii ^{who} have spent lives looking out for his compatriots, has the larger interest of his country at heart. He's outsmarted many presidents and outlasted all of them. He may outlast this one. Give him his due, please.

In my E.S.L. class last semester, I had a student. He was an old man, living alone, on welfare and very sad. He was a Marielito and he only wanted to go home. His face is before me as I write. I've had over 20,000 students in my classes over the years that I've tried to help adjust to life here.

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after leaving the troubled spots over the world. One fact stands out. All but a handful did not want to leave their countries and most wanted to return as soon as conditions improved to the point they felt they could have a better future for themselves and their country and their children's security. The Cubans leaving or trying to leave now are no different. It is my firm conviction that our policy toward Cuba is wrong and tragically so. I've known many Cubans of all classes over the years. We can prevent further tragedy by lifting the embargo and changing our attitude toward Señor Castro. We will lose nothing and gain much. In fact, I believe it is in our national security interests to do so. We do not need another single refugee. I do not want to see Cubans in my classes this year as I did after Mariel (most of whom are dead now). Our taxpayers don't need the burden of resettling people who would stay if the economic conditions were allowed to improve. We are the problem and we can solve it.

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I've researched the telecommunication links with Cuba and found a similar situation exists there as it did with Viet Nam. A.T. & T. has fiber optic and other cables in place. Hurricane Andrew blew down the towers on both sides. Our side has been repaired. The Cuban side has not. The Cubans have been asking for surcharge of \$4.85 per call and the U.S. has refused. However, few people understand the economics of this situation. For propaganda purposes, we say that it's the Cubans who limit the calls to 280 per day. Yet, I know that ATT (and possibly other U.S. Telecommunications companies) receive revenue from the calls but the Cubans are forced to pay in hard currency for half of each call. Since the purpose of the economic embargo is to deny them hard currency, all revenues on the Cuban side go into a blocked account in the U.S. and has since 1966. The interest alone must be a staggering amount by now. It is only logical and

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reasonable that the Cubans would need a surcharge to effect the blocked accounts. What an insidious ploy on the part of the U.S. to try to strangle them on the one hand and then say they are the ones who are keeping people from calling or limiting calls, knowing full well every call soaks up precious dollars of those need for economic survival. How can we hold ourselves out as protectors of human rights when we commit such cruel and hypocritical acts. I am revulsed at this policy and as a U.S. citizen am ashamed of my government's leaders who allow this to continue.

It is also my understanding that it is we, not the Cubans, who have limited the visas and the means of leaving Cuba and coming to the U.S. Can it be true that Cubans have a greater right to travel abroad than U.S. citizens who are denied this right by the Trading with the Enemy Act? Oh, the irony of it all!

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I am asking you as a personal favor to consider all of this again. You have the power to do a good thing and advise President Clinton of these ironies. He will gain as will all Americans by reversing our policy, making it possible for Cubans to stay home, allowing me and others to call and visit there, and allowing Señor Castro retire into what I would hope a graceful old age. The man deserves a rest as do all the old compatriots of my Uncle Ho. One can argue the means they used, but not the ends nor the purpose - if we are true democrats and republicans.

With deepest regards and sincerity,
Betty Jean Wilkinson

cc: The President
Congressman Tom Lantos
Senators Feinstein and Boxer
The Secretary of State
The Chairman of A.T. & T.
et al