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Document ID: 9604984				
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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9604984
RECEIVED: 19 JUL 96 10

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: TORRICELLI, ROBERT G

DOC DATE: 15 JUL 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA
CO

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP TORRICELLI RE ADVOCATING POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR
SERVERAL CUBANS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

ACTION: OBE / STATUS OF ORIGINAL UNKNOWN DUE DATE: 23 JUL 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: MALLEY

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

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9604984

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 ARMSTRONG
001
001 MALLEY
001

Z 96071910 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 96072411 ACTION TRANSFERRED
Z 96072411 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 97060512 OBE / STATUS OF ORIGINAL UNKNOWN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9604984
RECEIVED: 19 JUL 96 10

TO: PRESIDENT

SUSPENSE

FROM: TORRICELLI, ROBERT G

DOC DATE: 15 JUL 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA
CO

REFUGEES

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP TORRICELLI RE ADVOCATING POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR
SERVERAL CUBANS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 23 JUL 96 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: ARMSTRONG

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
ARMSTRONG

FOR CONCURRENCE
CLARKE
DANVERS
MALLEY
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO
APPEL
BEERS
DOBBINS
HARMON
RAGAN
SENS
SESTAK

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
9TH DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN
HEMISPHERE
SELECT INTELLIGENCE



WASHINGTON OFFICE
1001 OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3000
202-225-5001
DISTRICT OFFICES
COURT PLAZA
25 MAIN STREET
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
201-646-1111
140 PATH PLAZA
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310
201-222-8100

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3000

July 15, 1996

Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing about the fate of several Cubans who have fled to the United States Naval base at Guantanamo Bay for a second time out of a legitimate fear of political persecution in Cuba.

The Cubans, Osmani Marquez Coba, Lisbeth Lorente Rivera, Gilberto Rodriguez Creach, and Lizardo Garcia Sanchez, fled to Guantanamo Bay last year, only to be returned to Cuba.

On March 1996, I wrote to the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Mrs. Doris Meissner, to request that the last 26 Cuban refugees remaining in Guantanamo at that time be granted political asylum in the United States. Each one of those Cuban refugees had been prosecuted in Cuba for the crime of "illegal exit," a crime that violates international law, and a crime that the United States does not recognize. My request was denied. The INS mistakenly argued that none of the remaining refugees faced a legitimate fear of political persecution.

In a flagrant violation of the May 2, 1995 migration agreement with Cuba, Cuban authorities have engaged in a pattern of intimidation and harassment of many repatriated refugees. One of these refugees, Osmani Marquez Coba, is now back in Guantanamo Bay after escaping from a bus carrying him back to prison for "illegal exit" of Cuba. Upon his return to Cuba he faced constant harassment by Cuban authorities. Then on July 2 he was picked-up by Cuban State Security and was on the way to a Cuban prison when he escaped.

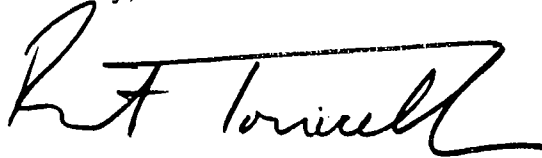
Honorable William J. Clinton
July 15, 1996
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The others faced similar harassment from Cuban authorities. There can now be no doubt that if these Cubans are once again returned to Cuba, they will face harsh reprisals and prison sentences. The issue now, Mr. President, is one of international law and human rights.

I ask that you intercede and immediately grant these refugees political asylum in the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. G. Torricelli", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW SENS
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY 
SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President from various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting a response.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at x67500.

The following are brief descriptions of the letters:

- 1) Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), advocating political asylum for several Cubans at Guantanamo Base;
- 2) Rep. George Miller (D-CA), praising Dr. Baker's conduct as head of the U.S. delegation at the International Whaling Commission;
- 3) Rep. Dick Zimmer (R-NJ), opposing extradition of Jimmy Smyth to England;
- 4) Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), opposing extradition of Jimmy Smyth, and others, to England;
- 5) Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-MA), urging extradition of Emmanuel Constant to Haiti;
- 6) Senators Trent Lott (R-MS), Frank Murkowski (R-AK), Jesse Helms (R-NC), et al, concerning various issues related to the U.N. Convention on Climate Change;
- 7) Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), advocating tighter sanctions against Sudan;
- 8) Rep. Curt Welton (R-PA), concerning the tensions between India and Pakistan.

Attachments.