

# FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

|                                |            |               |              |                |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
|                                |            |               |              |                |
| Original OA/ID Number:<br>1125 |            |               |              |                |
|                                |            |               |              |                |
| Document ID: 9606803           |            |               |              |                |
| Stack:<br>V                    | Row:<br>45 | Section:<br>1 | Shelf:<br>11 | Position:<br>1 |

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
|--------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|

|             |                                              |            |         |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 001. letter | Jorge Mas Canosa to POTUS [partial] (1 page) | 09/27/1996 | P6/b(6) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|---------|

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
NSC Records Management  
([Schwartz and Cuba...])  
OA/Box Number: 1125

### FOLDER TITLE:

9606803

2011-1039-F  
rs1875

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9606803  
RECEIVED: 08 OCT 96 18

TO: CANOSA, JORGE MAS

FROM: BERGER

DOC DATE: 12 OCT 96  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA  
IMMIGRATION

REFUGEES  
MP

PERSONS: CANOSA, JORGE

SUBJECT: LTR TO CUBAN AMER NATL FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN JORGE MAS CANISA

ACTION: BERGER SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 11 OCT 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: ARMSTRONG

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO  
ARMSTRONG  
DOBBINS  
MALLEY  
NSC CHRON

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

DISPATCHED BY

*SP*

DATE

*10/15*

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9606803

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

|     |           |   |          |                       |
|-----|-----------|---|----------|-----------------------|
| 001 | ARMSTRONG | Z | 96100818 | APPROPRIATE ACTION    |
| 002 | ARMSTRONG | Z | 96100916 | PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE |
| 003 | BERGER    | Z | 96101118 | FOR SIGNATURE         |
| 004 |           | X | 96101506 | BERGER SGD LTR        |

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

| <u>DOC</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>DISPATCH FOR ACTION</u> | <u>DISPATCH FOR INFO</u> |
|------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 004        | 961012      | CANOSA, JORGE MAS          |                          |

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council  
The White House

rec'd 10/12  
9am

PROOFED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ LOG # 4803  
URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT' ARS  
BYPASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_ DOCLOG KH A/O \_\_\_\_\_

|                 | SEQUENCE TO | INITIAL/DATE                             | DISPOSITION |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>W</u> Harmon | <u>1</u>    | <u>JA</u>                                |             |
| Dohse           |             |                                          |             |
| Sens            |             |                                          |             |
| Soderberg       |             |                                          |             |
| Berger          | <u>2</u>    | <u>RW</u>                                |             |
| Lake            |             |                                          |             |
| Situation Room  |             | <u>10/12</u>                             |             |
| West Wing Desk  | <u>3</u>    | <b>Depy Nat Sec Advisor<br/>has seen</b> | <u>D</u>    |
| Records Mgt.    | <u>4</u>    |                                          | <u>D</u>    |
|                 |             |                                          |             |
|                 |             |                                          |             |

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

cc:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette YD

100-1-1

National Security Council  
The White House

PROOFED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

LOG # 4803

URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCLOG KH A/O \_\_\_\_\_

|                 | SEQUENCE TO | INITIAL/DATE                   | DISPOSITION |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>W</u> Harmon | <u>1</u>    | <u>[Signature]</u>             |             |
| Dohse           |             |                                |             |
| Sens            |             |                                |             |
| Soderberg       |             |                                |             |
| Berger          | <u>2</u>    | <u>[Signature]</u>             |             |
| Lake            |             |                                |             |
| Situation Room  |             | <u>[Signature] 10/12</u>       |             |
| West Wing Desk  | <u>3</u>    | <b>Deputy Natl Sec Advisor</b> | <u>D</u>    |
| Records Mgt.    | <u>4</u>    | <b>has seen</b>                | <u>D</u>    |
|                 |             |                                |             |
|                 |             |                                |             |

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

CC:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette [Signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 1996

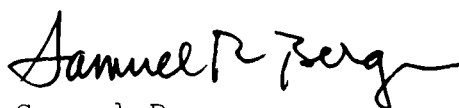
Dear Mr. Mas Canosa:

Thank you for forwarding to Leon Panetta the letter to the President from the fasters at Guantanamo Naval Base desiring parole into the United States.

I was pleased to hear that they have agreed to end their fast and to maintain a prayer vigil instead. I sympathize with their plight and that of the other migrants in Guantanamo who await resettlement. The State Department has worked tirelessly to identify countries willing to resettle these individuals. We expect the Bolivian Government to give final approval to the resettlement of 20 of them very soon and another Latin American country has indicated its willingness to accept five others.

While this represents significant progress, it remains insufficient. We will continue to make every effort to resettle migrants who have a credible fear of persecution in Cuba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel R. Berger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Samuel Berger  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

Mr. Jorge Mas Canosa  
Chairman  
The Cuban American National Foundation  
Suite 505  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

6803

October 11, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: JAMES F. DOBBINS *[Signature]*  
FROM: FULTON T. ARMSTRONG/ROB MALLEY *[Signature]*  
SUBJECT: Letter to Cuban American National Foundation Chairman  
Jorge Mas Canosa

Deputy Natl Sec Advisor  
has seen

**SIGNED**

Leon Panetta forwarded to you a fax from CANF Chairman Mas covering a letter to the President from Cuban migrants who have been fasting at Guantanamo Naval Base in an effort to press for parole into the United States.

Four of the 13 fasters have already resumed a normal diet, and the nine remaining have agreed to take one solid meal per day and will maintain a prayer vigil instead. The Base Commander reports that none is in immediate danger of serious health complications for the fast.

The fasters and 17 others currently in Guantanamo have been found to have a credible fear of persecution should they be returned to Cuba and are slated for resettlement in third countries. This is a slow, tedious process, however, and some of them have been in Guantanamo for over a year -- a legitimate source of frustration. The State Department is in the final stages of arranging resettlement of 20 of them in Bolivia, perhaps as soon as November 1, and Costa Rica has privately offered to accept another five. Few other countries have offered to take these people, so ARA is preparing a strategy for another round of demarches.

In the proposed reply at Tab A, you inform Mr. Mas of the USG's efforts to resettle all of the migrants who have a credible fear of persecution. Suzanna Valdez has cleared.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the draft response at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Draft Reply

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Staff to Fulton Armstrong  
6003



CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

October 7, 1996

Mr. Jorge Mas Canosa  
Chairman  
The Cuban American National Foundation  
Suite 505  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Canosa:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your forwarding to me the letter to the President from the Cuban refugees in Guantanamo Bay. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

Please be assured that this appeal will receive careful attention by the appropriate offices in the White House.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Leon E. Panetta  
Chief of Staff

cc: The Honorable Anthony Lake

LEP/bes



6803



FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: Oct. 2, 1996  
TO: Mr. Leon Panetta

YOUR FAX NO. (202) 456-1121

CC:

CC:

FROM: Mr. Jorge Mas Canosa

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW, EXCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 1

SUBJECT: Cuban refugees in Guantanamo

COMMENTS:

*Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.*

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
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NSC Records Management  
([Schwartz and Cuba...])  
OA/Box Number: 1125

### FOLDER TITLE:

9606803

2011-1039-F

rs1875

### RESTRICTION CODES

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6803

September 27, 1996

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully address you with the purpose of informing you that we, a group of 13 Cuban refugees, including two women, find ourselves inside the church at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo, fasting and praying to the Lord.

Our group is formed by former prisoners of conscience, members of opposition groups and victims of persecution on the part of Cuba's State Security police. This peaceful and religious action that we decided to undertake does not constitute an act of defiance against your government nor the State Department. It is because we are Christians and wish to ask God to intercede on our behalf. Some of us had already initiated the process at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to legally abandon the country, but we had no other alternative than to leave by clandestine means because had we not done so, today we would be in one of Castro's prisons.

Today is the 14th day of our fast and our health has been steadily declining. Among us are two women and two elderly men who are the most weakened. Spiritually, we are well and with great faith in God.

Mr. President, we ask of you a gesture of good will and humanity toward us. We wish to find refuge in your country where we have family, including some who are U.S. citizens, therefore we will not become social burdens. We only seek that you lend us the freedom of your country. You may rest assured that when Cuba is free we will be among the first to return to the country of our birth.

May God bless you, Mr. President,

**Cuban Political Refugees who are fasting at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo:**

(b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9606803  
RECEIVED: 08 OCT 96 18

TO: NATL SECURITY COUN

FROM: PANETTA, L

DOC DATE: 07 OCT 96  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA  
IMMIGRATION

REFUGEES  
MP

PERSONS: CANOSA, JORGE

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STAFF FWDS LTR TO PRES FM CUBAN AMERICAN NATIONAL  
FOUNDATION RE HUNGER STRIKERS AT GUANTANAMO - NSC RECOM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 11 OCT 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  
MALLEY  
SCHWARTZ

FOR INFO  
APPEL  
BEERS  
BRAINARD, L  
DOBBINS  
RAGAN  
SESTAK

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

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

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Small  
White  
6023

Dear Mr. Mas Canosa:

Thank you for forwarding to Leon Panetta the letter to the President from the fasters at Guantanamo Naval Base desiring parole into the United States.

I was pleased to hear that they have agreed to end their fast and to maintain a prayer vigil instead. I sympathize with their plight and that of the other migrants in Guantanamo who await resettlement. The State Department has worked tirelessly to identify countries willing to resettle these individuals. We expect the Bolivian Government to give final approval to the resettlement of 20 of them very soon and another Latin American country has indicated its willingness to accept five others.

While this represents significant progress, it remains insufficient. We will continue to make every effort to resettle migrants who have a credible fear of persecution in Cuba.

Sincerely,

Burger  
~~Signature~~ Signature Block.

Mr. Jorge Mas Canosa  
Chairman  
The Cuban American National Foundation  
Suite 505  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007