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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9806980
RECEIVED: 13 OCT 98 09

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: MOREIRA, DOMINGO
MAS, JORGE

DOC DATE: 05 OCT 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: REFUGEES
CUBA
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HAITI
LEGAL ISSUES
CONGRESSIONAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CUBAN AMER FOUNDATION RE HAITIAN REFUGEE LEGISLATION

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED DUE DATE: 24 OCT 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ

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: 9806980

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 SCHWARTZ
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 98101309 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98101509 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER DUE DATE: 24 OCT 98 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ 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
SCHWARTZ

FOR CONCURRENCE
ARMSTRONG
BAKER
CLARKE
RUDMAN

FOR INFO
DOBBINS
ROSA

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWD CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Scott

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE
IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: Schwartz
B vs BY

LOG NUMBER: 6980

DUE DATE: 24 Oct

DATE STAFFED: 13 Oct

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

☒

PRESIDENT

☐

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: Moreira & Mas

No response necessary. (SB) 10/14/98
Fulton Armstrong concurs.

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A
RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH
THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.

6980



Cuban American Foundation

October 5, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cuban American Foundation, we would like to take this opportunity to express our support for an important bipartisan legislative initiative that would grant resident status to Haitian refugees who have been in the United States since 1995.

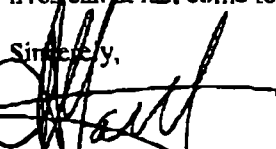
We strongly feel it is imperative that this measure — part of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill — can be brought to the House floor and passed before Congress adjourns later this week. Cognizant of your sympathetic stance on this issue in the past, we hereby wish to appeal to your Administration to make this matter an issue of top priority and do everything possible to ensure that this just and compassionate effort can succeed.

Throughout the years, the people of Cuba, on the island and in exile, have been truly fortunate to count on the leadership and steadfast support of this great nation in the struggle to promote a free and democratic Cuba. Indeed, the United States' firm stance and resolve on behalf of our cause has sent an unequivocal message to the world that the Cuban people will not be abandoned in the struggle against Fidel Castro's brutal dictatorship and of the moral obligation that we all share as Americans to stand alongside all people around the globe who each day struggle against tyranny and who yearn for the cherished values of liberty, human rights and self determination.

That is why we are reaching out to you, Mr. President, to express our solidarity with our Haitian compatriots in their quest for human dignity and ask for your help with this important endeavor. Like our own people, Haitian asylum seekers in South Florida were also uprooted from their homeland, forced into exile fleeing persecution, and sought refuge in this country whose compassion and generosity have long served as a symbol of hope to victims of oppression the world over. It is our obligation now to stand on the right side of this just, fair, and humane legislative effort whose passage will serve as a strong reaffirmation of the promise of America and of the principles of freedom and justice on which our system of government was founded.

We hope and trust that you will give this most critical and urgent matter your utmost consideration and support so that the dream of these innocent families to settle their legal status and begin to rebuild their lives can at last come to fruition.

Sincerely,


Domingo R. Moreira


Jorge Mas

Cc: Senator Bob Graham
Senator Connie Mack
Senator Robert G. Torricelli

OCT 8 15:26



**Cuban
American
Foundation**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 1998

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Fernando D. Rojas (305) 477-1202

CAF APPEALS TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS & WHITE HOUSE FOR SUPPORT OF LEGAL STATUS FOR HAITIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

Calls Bi-Partisan Measure "Just, Fair and Humane"

Citing the "moral obligation that we all share as Americans to stand alongside all people around the globe who each day struggle against tyranny and who yearn for the cherished values of liberty, human rights and self determination," the Cuban American Foundation (CAF) called today on key Congressional leaders and the Clinton Administration for assistance in assuring the passage of an important legislative effort that would grant resident status to approximately 40,000 Haitian refugees who have arrived in the United States since 1995.

The measure — spearheaded by Congresswoman Carrie Meek (D-FL) along with a bi-partisan group in the House and Senate — is part of a *Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill* conference report forced off the House floor by opponents of the provision and of other unrelated issues included in the legislation, thus seriously threatening prospects for final passage before Congress adjourns later this week.

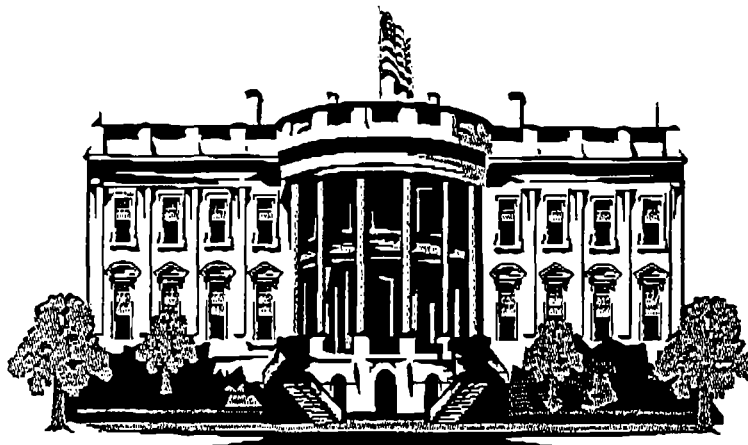
In appeals sent to House Speaker Newt Gingrich and President Bill Clinton on behalf of the CAF, Jorge Mas and Domingo Moreira expressed support for the measure and petitioned House Leadership and the Administration to make it "an issue of top priority" in order that it may be approved. "We strongly feel it is imperative that this measure be brought to the floor and passed before Congress adjourns later this week, and we hereby appeal to your leadership and your keen sense of justice and compassion to do everything possible to ensure that this important initiative can become a reality," said the CAF.

"Throughout the years, the people of Cuba, on the island and in exile, have been truly fortunate to count on the leadership and steadfast support of this great nation in the struggle to promote a free and democratic Cuba," the letter continued. "That is why we are reaching out to you, to express our solidarity with our Haitian compatriots in their quest for human dignity and to ask for your help in this critical endeavor. Like our own people, Haitian asylum seekers in South Florida were also uprooted from their homeland, forced into exile fleeing persecution, and sought refuge in this country whose compassion and generosity have long served as a symbol of hope to victims of oppression the world over."

It is expected that all remaining appropriations issues will be consolidated later this week into an omnibus bill, raising concern among supporters of the Haitian asylum provision that the measure could be jeopardized in attempts to exclude items considered to have the potential of impeding approval of the omnibus bill. The CAF support thus aims to join forces with proponents of the asylum measure in an eleventh hour attempt to increase awareness of the critical nature of the language with the objective of helping to bolster its chances.

"It is our obligation now to stand on the right side of this just, fair, and humane legislative effort whose passage will serve as a strong reaffirmation of the promise of America and of the principles of freedom and justice on which this nation was founded," concluded Messrs. Mas and Moreira. "We hope and trust that you will give this most critical and urgent matter your utmost consideration so that the dream of these innocent families to settle their legal status and begin to rebuild their lives can at last come to fruition."

— 30 —



FAX COVER SHEET

CRAIG T. SMITH
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
THE WHITE HOUSE
GROUND FLOOR, WEST WING
WASHINGTON, DC 20500
PHONE: 202/456-1125 • FAX: 202/456-2030

DATE:

10/8/98

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SENDER:

Craig Smith c/o Kipp Teamey

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3