

FOIA MARKER

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FOIA				
Original OA/ID Number: 2765				
FOIA MARKER				
Document ID: 9909026				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 5	Shelf: 6	Position: 3

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	Samuel Berger to POTUS re: Update on Elian Gonzalez and Cuban Migration (2 pages)	12/15/1999	P1/b(1)
001b. memo	Samuel Berger to POTUS re: Update on Elian Gonzalez and Cuban Migration (3 pages)	12/15/1999	P1/b(1)
001c. email	Mary DeRosa to NSA re: FW: Cuban Boy Update (2 pages)	12/14/1999	P1/b(1)
001d. memo	Samuel Berger to POTUS re: Update on Elian Gonzalez and Cuban Migration [incomplete copy] (1 page)	12/13/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
([Schwartz and Cuba...])
OA/Box Number: 2765

FOLDER TITLE:

9909026

2011-1039-F

rs1880

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9909026
RECEIVED: 13 DEC 99 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: BERGER

DOC DATE: 15 DEC 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ELIAN GONZALEZ & CUBAN MIGRATION POLICY

ACTION: NOTED BY PRESIDENT

DUE DATE: 18 DEC 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BUSBY

LOGREF: 9908511

FILES: PA

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

BUSBY
NSC CHRON
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY: NSDMK

DOC 2 OF 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006

By Mr. NARA, Date 4/11/16

2011-1036-F

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9909026

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 BERGER
002 PRESIDENT
002

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 99121320 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
Z 99121517 FOR INFORMATION
X 99122114 NOTED BY PRESIDENT

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

001 991213
001 991213
002 991215
002 991215

DISPATCH FOR INFO

VICE PRESIDENT
PODESTA, J
VICE PRESIDENT
PODESTA, J

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9026
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: T SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG T A/O _____

SEQUENCE TO INITIAL/DATE DISPOSITION

GIRE	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSON	<u>1</u>	<u>12/13</u>	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
SARGEANT	_____	_____	_____
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>3</u>	<u>12/15</u>	<u>SSec</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

99DEC13 PM 7:56

CC:

COMMENTS:

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9026
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: T SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG T A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
GIRE	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSON	<u>1</u>	<u>D 12/13</u>	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
SARGEANT	_____	_____	_____
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>3</u>	<u>12/15</u>	<u>D SSec</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

99DEC13 0m 7:58

CC:

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EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

December 13, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ *SB L*
FROM: SCOTT BUSBY *SB*
SUBJECT: Update on Elian Gonzalez and Cuban Migration
Policy

Attached is the memorandum you requested on the above subjects.

Concurrence by: Mary DeRosa, Caryn Hollis) *by e-mail*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab II Washington Post editorial with comment

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
12-10-99

TO: BUZZY

Sander

copied
Berger
Podesta

Scott -

As part of update
to POTUS, need to
answer this Q.

A

12-10-99

What's Best for Elian Gonzalez

THE RUSH to make a symbol out of Elian Gonzalez—the 6-year-old Cuban boy who was rescued at sea after the boat in which his mother and several other people sought to flee Cuba sank—politicizes the child's tragedy and should have no place in discussion of his future. Fidel Castro has threatened mass demonstrations if the boy is not returned immediately to his father in Cuba. Meanwhile, Cuban exiles have made him a poster child for anti-Castro activities. Footage of Elian dressed in a Cuban American National Foundation T-shirt and surrounded with toys is a not-so-subtle way of demonstrating that he is better off here with some more distant relatives than with his father in Cuba. Lost in the politics is the question that ought to decide the matter and that, we would hope, the courts in Florida will focus on in considering it. As President Clinton put it yesterday, that question is "What would be best for the child?"

Whether it is better to grow up with one's father in a tyranny or with extended family in a democracy is not a question that lends itself

to decision on the basis of strict principles. It can be answered only on a case-by-case basis in light of all the relevant facts. Our own sense is that, for a 6-year-old who has just lost his mother and been stranded at sea for more than 24 hours on an inner tube, the personal is more important than the political. Reunification with his father seems as if it should be presumptively the desired outcome. And if the boy's father wants to live with him in Cuba, that is his decision.

But that's a big if. The fact that his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, says he wants the boy returned to Cuba—given the incentives any Cuban has not to embarrass his government internationally—is not necessarily conclusive. Before Elian Gonzalez is returned because of his father's presence there, it should be clear that his father would not prefer to come to this country to be with his son. Some procedure has to be devised to make sure that the interests of family reunification don't cost young Elian the freedoms for which he has already paid so dearly.

Source is not an expert?

Who Hears Gunfire Anymore?

HOW CHILLINGLY matter-of-fact this account of a seventh-grader's reaction when bullets began to fly at Fort Gibson Middle School in Oklahoma Monday: According to his mother, "Justin immediately laid down on the ground and shouted to his friends to get down. *Of course, we had been through this after seeing the other school shootings on television.*" As in those "other school shootings," some kids couldn't duck or escape fast enough. By the time their 13-year-old fellow student had emptied the clip of a 9-millimeter semiautomatic handgun, four kids were wounded. But this time the gunfire took no lives—and therefore failed to grip a numbed public to the same degree.

The hideous truth is that kids and adults are shot dead all the time in this country, some by students at schools, some by hardened criminals and still others by disturbed people or by their own hands. Only the other day, a shoot-

ing rampage in a Baltimore house left five women dead and the immediate neighborhood shaken. But even when the deaths by gunfire in the schools do come in sufficient numbers to regenerate nationwide public concern about the free flow of firearms in this country, nothing happens.

When Congress is in town and perhaps facing elections, the hand-wringing about moral decay gets frenzied for a while; some gun safety proposals are kicked around, weakened and ultimately abandoned. So how will this latest terror at Fort Gibson affect efforts to get handguns out of anybody's easy reach?

Likely not at all. No deaths, no Congress in session, no sense of urgency. Public pressures clearly have stirred some positive movements on Capitol Hill from time to time. But how many times must gunfire wound or kill kids or grown-ups before the lawmakers move seriously to stop the flood of firearms?

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