

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2767				
Document ID: 9909316				
Stack: v	Row: 46	Section: 5	Shelf: 7	Position: 2

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9909316
RECEIVED: 29 DEC 99 18

TO: WATERS, MAXINE
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 10 FEB 00
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA MIGRATION

CO

PERSONS: GONZALEZ, ELIAN

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LTRS FM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS RE ELIAN GONZALEZ CASE

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 10 JAN 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PATTEN

LOGREF: 0000128 0000237

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
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
LACKEY
NSC CHRON
PATTEN

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY

GPP

DATE

2/15

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9909316

<u>DOC</u>	<u>ACTION OFFICER</u>	<u>CAO</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>ACTION REQUIRED</u>
001	BUSBY	Z	99122918	PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001		Z	99123010	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001	PATTEN	Z	99123010	PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002	BERGER	Z	00020312	FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002	BRAIN	Z	00020712	FOR SIGNATURE
003	PRESIDENT	Z	00020915	FOR SIGNATURE
004		X	00021505	PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
004	WH STRIPPING DESK	X	00021505	FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

<u>DOC</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR ACTION</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR INFO</u>
003	000209		VICE PRESIDENT
003	000209		PODESTA, J
004	000210	WH STRIPPING DESK	
004	000210	ABERCROMBIE, NEIL	
004	000210	BINGAMAN, JEFF	
004	000210	BISHOP, SANFORD D JR	
004	000210	CARSON, JULIA	
004	000210	CLAY, WILLIAM L	
004	000210	CLYBURN, JAMES E	
004	000210	COVERDELL, PAUL	
004	000210	CRAIG, LARRY E	
004	000210	CUMMINGS, ELIJAH	
004	000210	DEUTSCH, PETER	
004	000210	HASTINGS, ALCEE L	
004	000210	HILLIARD, EARL F	
004	000210	HINCHEY, MAURICE D	
004	000210	JONES, STEPHANIE T.	
004	000210	KENNEDY, PATRICK J	
004	000210	LEE, BARBARA	
004	000210	JACKSON-LEE, SHEILA	
004	000210	LOTT, TRENT	
004	000210	MACK, CONNIE	
004	000210	MEEKS, GREGORY	
004	000210	MENENDEZ, ROBERT	
004	000210	NICKLES, DONALD L	
004	000210	PELOSI, NANCY	
004	000210	SCHAKOWSKY, JANICE	
004	000210	SERRANO, JOSE E	
004	000210	VELAZQUEZ, NYDIA M	
004	000210	WATERS, MAXINE	

UNCLASSIFIED

9316

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

— The INS, in consultation with the Attorney General, had sole responsibility for deciding the procedures to follow as well as the result. An interagency task force was not established to determine the procedures governing this case.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9316
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG D A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
GIRE	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
BASH	<u>1</u>	<u>SD 2/14</u>	_____
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>2</u>	<u>2/14 WC</u>	<u>D</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

CC:

COMMENTS:

ARE Check Good SD →

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

PROOFED BY: DK - edits LOG # 9316
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JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
BASH	<u>1/2</u>	<u>DB/2/3</u>	<u>1 additional edit</u> <u>w/ edit</u>
BRADTKE	_____	_____	<u>done</u> <u>w/ edit</u>
RUDMAN	<u>3</u>	<u>un 2/4</u>	<u>w/ edit</u>
STEINBERG	<u>4</u>	<u>J</u>	_____
BERGER	<u>5</u>	<u>@</u>	_____
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RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____

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

00 FEB 3 04 12 15
CC:

COMMENTS: Ltrs fm Congress re
Elián Gonzalez Case

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9316
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A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC:

COMMENTS:

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

LOG # 9316

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

FM RB TO MER DATE 2/3

MARA -

A complicated PACKAGE. I recommend
we fwd to SRB for approval. We
will complete all letters for POTUS
sig AFTER SRB approval. We should
NOT let this one linger or the
letters will be out-of-date after
the next court action.
BROOKS

FM _____ TO _____ DATE _____

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9316
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG D A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
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CCN = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC:

COMMENTS:

DAE Check Good BO >

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: DK - edits LOG # 9316
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 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG D A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
GIRE	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
BASH	<u>1/2</u>	<u>BB/2/3</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL EDIT</u> <u>done</u>
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	<u>3</u>	<u>un 2/4</u>	<u>w/ edit</u>
STEINBERG	<u>4</u>	<u>1/1</u>	_____
BERGER	<u>5</u>	<u>1/1</u>	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>6</u>	<u>TC 2/7</u>	<u>DBRAIN</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
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A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

100 FEB 3 PM 12:15
 CC:

COMMENTS: Ltrs fm Congress re
Eliau Gonzalez Case

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 9316

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
GIRE	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
BASH	_____	_____	_____
BRADTKE	_____	_____	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>1</u>	<u>1/8 2/9</u>	<u>D Pres</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
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CC:

COMMENTS:

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

9316
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 3, 2000

Sheba/Mona:

FYI. There are several incoming letters in this package. Most warrant their own response (mainly because some representatives wrote more than once) but the text is mostly similar. Additional letters will be prepared upon approval of the package. If you have any questions, please let me know. I'll be happy to try and explain the package.

Kay

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Peter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, and not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

The Honorable Peter Deutsch
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0920

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Patrick:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, and not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned here.

The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3901

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, and not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Robert Menendez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3013

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Neil:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3704

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3102

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Sanford:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Julia:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Julia M. Carson
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1410

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Honorable William "Bill" Clay
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2501

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

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The Honorable James E. Clyburn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4006

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Elijah:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2007

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Alcee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0923

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Earl:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Earl F. Hilliard
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0107

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Maurice:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3226

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Stephanie:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3511

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Barbara Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Gregory:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3206

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0508

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Janice:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1309

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Nydia:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3212

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Maxine:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Maxine Waters
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0535

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics. The INS, in consultation with the Attorney General, had sole responsibility for deciding the procedures to follow as well as the result. An interagency task force was not established to determine the procedures governing this case.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Coverdell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1004

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Craig:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1203

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Mr. Leader:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Mack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Clinton" clearly distinguishable.

The Honorable Connie Mack
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0904

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Nickles:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Don Nickles
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3602

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I share your view, and that of many of your colleagues, that any challenge to the INS decision should be resolved in court, not through legislation.

I appreciate your enclosure of the letter from Elian's grandmothers. I am pleased they met with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner during their stay.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

2-11-00

9316

'00 FEB 9 PM 3:35

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 9, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER *RB*
CHARLES M. BRAIN *CMB*

SUBJECT:

Response to Letters from Members of Congress
Concerning the Elian Gonzalez Case

Purpose

To respond to nine letters from Congress concerning the Elian Gonzalez case.

Background

Numerous members of both houses of Congress have written to express their concerns on the matter of Elian Gonzalez. Some members, such as Representatives Serrano and Waters, support the child's prompt return to his father in Cuba. Others, such as Senator Mack and Representative Menendez, request that you prevent INS from returning the child to Cuba before they can act to pass legislation to confer U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status on the boy. Still others, such as Senator Bingaman, urge you to steer clear of the political forces unleashed by this case. Representative Lee urges you to veto any bills to confer status on the child, while attaching a letter in Spanish from Elian's grandmothers in which they ask to meet with you.

Your response indicates that the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is currently being challenged in federal court. The response also makes clear that you have tried to ensure that the INS decision would be made according to applicable law and procedures, not politics.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Response to Letters from Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

PHOTOCOPY WJC HANDWRITING

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

0422



408766

January 7, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing regarding the plight of Elian Gonzalez to request that you take no action to enforce the decision announced by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that would mandate Elian's return to Cuba.

As you are aware, there are many complicated legal aspects to this case. Given that the fate of an innocent little boy is at stake amidst these complex and unique circumstances, we believe that the U.S. Government should not move too hastily on this issue.

In addition, we feel that it is imperative that Congress be allowed to examine all the issues involved. We intend to introduce legislation to extend permanent resident alien status to Elian Gonzalez when Congress returns in late January. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to take steps to halt the implementation of the INS' decision, waiting instead to work with Congress when it reconvenes.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Rep. Bob Menendez


Rep. Peter Deutsch


Rep. Patrick Kennedy

828577

MAXINE WATERS

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES

BANKING AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES

JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

December 23, 1999

1-000 F-02/02 F-008
2344 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20615-0535
(202) 225-2201
FAX (202) 225-7854
DISTRICT OFFICE
10124 S BRADWAY
SUITE 1
LOS ANGELES, CA 90003
(323) 757-8900
FAX (323) 757-9606

To: interam

PLS DRAFT RESPONSE

ccur: Legnat, Legal

exec/records to track

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D C 20050

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you to urge the Administration to expedite the return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. It is unconscionable that this real life tragedy has become overly politicized and his return further delayed by postponement of his hearing by the Immigration and Naturalization Service until January 21, 2000.

It has been nearly a month since, by the grace of God, Elian's life was spared after an unsuccessful attempt by his mother and others to come to the United States aboard a risky vessel. Elian should have been back home in Cuba well before Christmas, and his father should not have to experience the anguish of separation from his child in this highly politicized environment.

Clearly, Elian is a Cuban native

Clearly, his father is in Cuba.

Clearly, his father made no effort to "smuggle" Elian into the United States.

There are no outstanding issues And, moreover, Elian is too young to be interviewed

Mr. President, I am sending this urgent letter of request in an attempt to avoid the proposed delay. Many other Members of Congress will join me during our next communication on this issue. Some of us are determined that this situation will not be decided based on the politics of the day or the sentiments of anti-Castro Cubans in Florida and the rest of the United States. Rather, it should be decided based on the best interest of the child and the rights that any father would expect to have.

Elian has lost his mother to death on the high seas. Are we also now going to take away his father? I urge your immediate consideration of these concerns

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

DEC 27 16:22

MW:rj

Cc: Mr. Samuel R. Berger
Secretary Madeline Albright
Attorney General Janet Reno
Secretary Larry Summers
Commissioner Doris Meissner
Ambassador Fernando Ruz

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
16TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3216
(202) 225-4361
FAX (202) 225-8001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
890 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NY 10451-2828
(718) 538-6400
FAX (718) 588-3852

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-3216

December 8, 1999

9045

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING DEMOCRAT
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, THE JUDICIARY
AND RELATED AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that an inter-agency task force, led by the National Security Agency, is trying to determine what procedures should be followed with respect to the case of Elián González, the Cuban child rescued off the coast of Florida. I am at a loss to understand what would justify deviating from established procedures governing the rights of children found outside the protection of their own governments, which were designed and negotiated to protect not only the rights of nationals of other countries but also those of our own citizens.

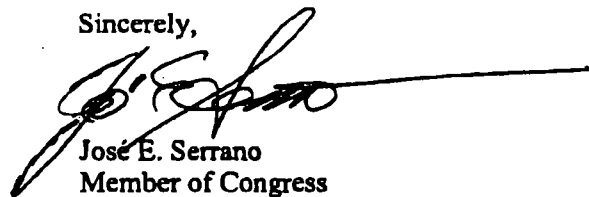
Although I can appreciate the sensitivity of this case, I believe that the United States government, immediately upon finding this child, should have returned him to Cuba to his natural father, who is his only surviving parent. Unfortunately, the Immigration and Naturalization Service placed Elián in the temporary custody of relatives in Miami. Elián's father has now stated clearly and on numerous occasions that he wants his son returned to his care, and I believe that the parental rights of the father should take precedence over all political considerations.

You should quickly and personally intervene to facilitate the return of this small child to his father, his grandparents, and the place of his birth. In this particular case, a state court is not the appropriate forum. Moreover, a judicial process will only further delay the return of this child to Cuba, and will exacerbate already strained relations between the United States and Cuba.

Could there be a more poignant example of the irrationality governing our policy towards Cuba than the plight of this child, who has now become an international poster child for competing national interests? Time honored international procedures are being ignored in favor of political interests. This is a travesty.

With thanks for your attention to my views and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:nab

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
16TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3216
(202) 225-4361
FAX (202) 225-6001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
890 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NY 10451-2828
(718) 538-5400
FAX (718) 588-3652

0237

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3216

January 5, 2000

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING DEMOCRAT
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, THE JUDICIARY
AND RELATED AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES
MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS
MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS
VICE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005



Dear Mr. President:

Finally after a flawed process and an unjustifiable delay, the INS has announced that Elián González will be returned to his father. I am supportive of this moral decision.

At a recent press conference, lawyers from Miami indicated they would be asking that this decision by the INS be overturned, and stated that they would be initiating legal action. This is outrageous, unacceptable, and has no supporting legal precedent or basis. Any attempt to change this long and overdue correct decision by the INS would be a grave mistake.

Now is not the time to again politicize the process. I urge you to reject all of these attempts to thwart the authority and decision of the INS. This child belongs with his father, and I hope that all of your efforts will be directed towards quickly bringing this to a conclusion.

Sincerely,


José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:nab

936087

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The world knows the story of a mother who gave her life to protect her child and give him freedom. Along with his stepfather and several other people, she joined her young son in a small boat and entered dangerous waters. In all, this young six-year-old boy's story of how he arrived on our shores for freedom is a story for the ages. It is a story of the steps people will take to find and secure freedom.

Throughout our long history, people throughout the world have found freedom on our shores. Countless people through the years have fled the brutality of communism. In this young boy, Elian Gonzalez, hanging on to an inner-tube for his life is indeed a miracle. It should be recognized as such.

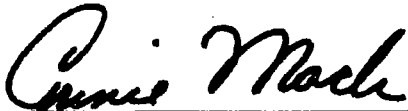
Therefore, when the Congress returns from the current recess, we intend to move to consider a measure granting United States citizenship to Elian Gonzalez.

Mr. President, there has been much too much debate; we should make this simple. Elian's mother, Elizabeth Rodriguez, gave her life so that her son would have the full protection of America's freedom. We undertake this initiative in honor of his mother and in recognition of the danger the boy faces. We in the Senate understand this young man has a right to freedom.

There is talk that the INS will simply send Elian back to the clutches of Castro's communist dictatorship. To return him without American citizenship would be a tragedy and a travesty. To ensure he gets a fair hearing in court by people who treasure liberty and honor and respect the rule of law, we hope the United States will bestow citizenship on him. At this point, Elian's future should be decided by his family and the courts. But later in life as an American citizen, he will have the freedom to choose where he wishes to live. His future will no longer be a political decision, but a decision based upon the best interests of the child. By confirming citizenship, we will be preserving the father's rights to see and be with his son. But most importantly, we will be preserving the boy's rights to live in freedom.

Since citizenship would also prevent the INS from forcefully removing Elian, we request that you take no action to deliver this boy to Cuba before we can act on his citizenship measure. Any act to do so would stand in conflict with the spirit of the season and the memory of Elian's mother.

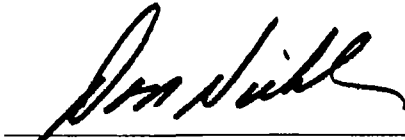
Sincerely,



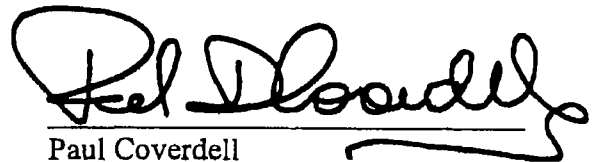
Connie Mack
United States Senator



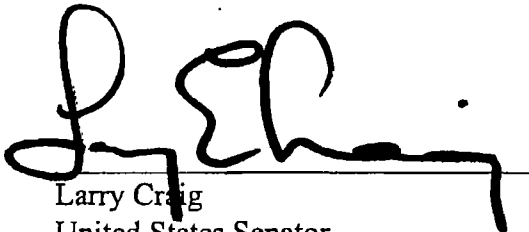
Trent Lott
United States Senator



Don Nickles
United States Senator



Paul Coverdell
United States Senator



Larry Craig
United States Senator

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

0551

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

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
713-655-0050

January 25, 2000

William Jefferson Clinton
The President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

VIA FAX AND HAND
DELIVERED

Dear President Clinton:

As the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, I am writing to applaud the decision that has been made by the Department of Justice to affirm the INS decision to act within the best interests of the child in the case of Elian Gonzalez. I also applaud the decision of the INS that compels the Miami relatives of Elian to bring him to a neutral site so that he may reunite with his grandmothers.

As you know, today I have had the opportunity to meet with Elian's two grandmothers, Raquel Rodriguez and Mariela Quintana, and Members of Congress to discuss his safe return back to Cuba. By meeting with these endearing women, I want to ensure the enforcement of the INS' previous decision. It is imperative that we end the political posturing surrounding this young boy's plight. Elian Gonzalez is not an orphan and his father has not been proven to be unfit and no abuse of Elian has been found that would normally deny a natural parent custody of his child.

You may also be aware that there are several bills in the Congress that would make Elian a citizen or a legal permanent resident of the United States. After meeting with the grandmothers, I have learned that their wish is for their precious grandson to return to Cuba to be with their natural father and them. I urge you to veto any bill that would make this young boy a citizen or legal permanent resident. I also think that it is important that you meet with these women and look in their eyes, and feel their emotions in order for you to fully appreciate this issue.

I am enclosing a letter from the grandmothers given to me today directed to you Mr. President asking for your help in returning Elian to his family in Cuba.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Jackson Lee', written over the printed name.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

SJL:lcb

Enclosure: Letter to President Clinton from the Grandmothers of Elian Gonzales

La Habana, 21 de enero de 2000

*Excmo. Sr. William Clinton
Presidente
Estados Unidos de América*

Estimado Presidente:

Las dos abuelas del niño Elián González Brotons hemos venido hasta Nueva York con la esperanza de recuperarlo.

Podrá suponer usted que hacer este viaje ha significado un gran sacrificio para nuestra familia, que no se ha separado un solo instante desde el momento de la tragedia en que perdimos a una hija y hemos sido forzados a contemplar con infinito dolor el secuestro de nuestro nieto. En los últimos días los que retienen criminalmente al niño ya no nos permiten siquiera hablar con él.

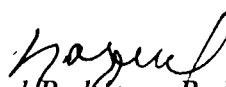
Sabemos que usted, enfrentándose a grandes obstáculos, ha expresado su reconocimiento al derecho indiscutible del padre de recuperar a su hijo. Juan Miguel el padre de Eliancito, nosotras y toda la familia estamos destruidos y vivimos el horror de ver pasar el tiempo.

A pesar de que conocemos de su inmenso trabajo, le solicitamos que nos reciba aunque sea por unos minutos. De usted preferirlo, sería absolutamente confidencial.

Si nos concede ese honor, constituiría para nosotras un extraordinario aliento, que ahora o en el futuro sería muy apreciado también por el pueblo de Estados Unidos que, apegado a los valores de familia, en muy amplia mayoría es decididamente partidario de que el niño regrese junto a su padre, abuelos y demás familiares.

Puede localizarnos en la casa de la Reverenda Joan Campbell, y el contacto se haría en la forma y lugar que usted estime pertinente.


Mariela Quintana Garrido y Raquel Rodríguez Rodríguez
Abuelas de Elián González Brotons



**U.S. Department of State
Office of Language Services
Translating Division**

LS No. 0200044
JF/IPM
Spanish

Havana, January 21, 2000

His Excellency William Clinton
President of the United States of America

Dear Mr. President:

We are the two grandmothers of little Elián González Brotons and have come to New York in the hope of retrieving him.

You can imagine how great a sacrifice this trip has been for our family, which has not been apart even a moment from the time of the tragedy in which we lost a daughter and have been forced to endure the immense pain of having our grandson kidnapped. In recent days, those who are keeping the child illegally have not even allowed us to speak with him.

We know that you have, in the face of great obstacles, indicated your acknowledgement of the father's indisputable right to retrieve his son. Juan Miguel, little Elián's father, we, and the entire family are devastated and living in the agony of each passing moment.

We realize how incredibly busy you are, but we ask you to meet with us even for just a few minutes. If you prefer, our meeting can be kept completely confidential.

If you grant us this honor, it would be of tremendous support to us, and, sooner or later, it would also be much appreciated by the people of the United States, who are committed to family values and who are, by a wide margin, clearly in favor of the child's return to his father, grandparents, and other relatives.

- 2 -

You can reach us at the home of the Rev. Joan Campbell. Contact would be made in the manner and place that you deem appropriate.

[Signature]

[Signature]

Mariela Quintana Garrido Raquel Rodríguez Rodríguez
Grandmothers of Elián González Brotons

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
SECURITIES, AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR
WOMEN'S ISSUES

CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS



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

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

January 10, 2000

OLLO

2241 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2361

DISTRICT OFFICES:

815 BROADWAY
BROOKLYN, NY 11206
(718) 599-3658

173 AVENUE B
NEW YORK, NY 10009
(212) 673-3997

16 COURT STREET
SUITE 1006
BROOKLYN, NY 11241
(718) 222-5819



The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20052

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to express my strong support for your efforts in the safe return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. Elian, who has just recently lost his mother, has been kept from the only family he has ever known. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has determined that Elian's father is his sole legal guardian. This is dictated by the laws of this nation and by the natural law between a parent and a child.

There is no evidence to suggest that Elian's father is anything but a loving and responsible parent. No one can argue against the fact that his father loves him and is the proper and legal guardian. Mr. Gonzalez' legal guardianship over his son has been attacked only because of his nationality and not because of any conduct of his own. Denying him custody of his child would fly in the face of justice. The welfare of a child must not take a backseat to politics.

This is not a political question, but a question about a father and son separated because of the relationship between two countries. I strongly support the decision of the INS to return Elian to his father and his home.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

cc: Attorney General Reno

2000

United States Senate

December 16, 1999



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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you regarding the battle for custody of Elian Gonzalez, the young Cuban boy whose mother perished attempting to flee to the United States. I have been greatly disturbed, as I'm sure you have, at the way in which groups on both sides of the issue have turned the very personal issue of where this young boy belongs into a debate with very political goals.

My purpose in writing this letter is simply to urge you to resist responding to the political forces swirling around this debate. If it is determined that the father is an appropriate adult to have custody of his son, this matter should be resolved in a manner that recognizes the rights of the surviving natural parent and insures that the best interests of the child are furthered. I would urge that this decision be made soon, so that the political storm that has been unleashed is prevented from doing further damage to this child and all of the parties involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Bingaman'.

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

FACSIMILE

C O V E R



Washington Office

2344 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
TEL (202) 225-2201
FAX (202) 225-7854

Los Angeles District Office

10124 Broadway, Suite One
Los Angeles, CA 90003
TEL (213) 757-8900
FAX (213) 757-9506

Office of
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress
35th District • California

leg for
res poss
S.B. 3
M.E.

Date: 11/6/00

Pages to follow: 3

To: John Podesta

Fax to: () 456-2883 Telephone: ()

From: Rep Maxine Waters ☒ DC ☐ LA

Message:

CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

The information contained in this fax may contain confidential and privileged information belonging to the Members or Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action on the contents of such information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you receive this fax in error, please notify us by telephone and return it to the above address.

MAXINE WATERS

Member of Congress
36th District, California

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

BANKING AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES

JUDICIARY

0238

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

1-812 P.02/04 F-365

PLEASE REPLY TO
2304 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0535
(202) 225-2301
FAX (202) 225-7854

DISTRICT OFFICE
10124 S. BROADWAY
Suite 1
LOS ANGELES, CA 90003
(323) 757-8800
FAX (323) 757-9506

January 6, 2000

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you to again urge the Administration to assist in expediting the return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. We applaud the National Council of Churches of Christ of the USA on the important role they are performing in the Elian Gonzalez immigration case. We support their request to accompany Elian back to Cuba and to turn him over to the Cuban Council of Churches so that he may be reunited with his father, Mr. Juan Gonzalez.

The U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service's determination that Mr. Juan Gonzalez has the sole legal authority to speak on behalf of his son, regarding Elian's immigration status in the United States speaks not only to U.S. laws but to natural law. We ask that you assist the National Council of Churches of Christ of the USA in their effort to fulfill the father's official request of assistance to reunify his family.

We have been ardent in our efforts to ensure that Elian's situation not be decided based on the politics of the day or the sentiments of anti-Castro Cubans in Florida and the rest of the United States. Rather, it should be based on the interests of the child and the rights that any father would expect to have.

We urge your immediate intervention to resolve this situation and eliminate any further delay in the reunification of this family. Any further delay will ensure Elian's continued traumatic exposure to the ongoing protests in Miami.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

JAN 11 19:02

William Clay
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Stephanie Tubbs-Jones
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Julia Carson
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Earl Hilliard
Member of Congress

cc: Attorney General Janet Reno
Commissioner Doris Meissner

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

9316

February 2, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: WENDY PATTEN *WP*

SUBJECT: Letters from Members of Congress Concerning the
Eliau Gonzalez Case

Attached is a memorandum to the President and proposed response to nine letters from Congress on the Eliau Gonzalez case.

Members who wrote, in order of receipt, are: Rep. Jose Serrano (twice), Rep. Maxine Waters (alone and subsequently with 15 co-signers), Senator Connie Mack (co-signed by Senators Lott, Nickles, Coverdell, and Craig), Senator Jeff Bingaman, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Rep. Bob Menendez (co-signed by Reps. Deutsch and Patrick Kennedy), and Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (including letter from Eliau Gonzalez's grandmothers requesting a meeting with the President).

The NSC received the incoming correspondence on dates ranging from December 27, 1999 to February 1, 2000.

Concurrences by: Mary DeRosa, Daniel Shapiro, Caryn Hollis *} via email*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Responses to Congressional Letters on
Eliau Gonzalez
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to governing law and procedures. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, and not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert Menendez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

I appreciate your enclosure of the letter from Elian's grandmothers. I am pleased they met with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner during their stay.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics. The INS, in consultation with the Attorney General, had sole responsibility for deciding the procedures to follow as well as the result. An interagency task force was not established to determine the procedures governing this case.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Maxine:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced its decision in this case on January 5. The INS decided Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to the governing law and procedures, not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Maxine Waters
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

9845
9316

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
CHARLES M. BRAIN

SUBJECT: Response to Letters from Members of Congress
Concerning the Elian Gonzalez Case

Purpose

To respond to nine letters from Congress concerning the Elian Gonzalez case.

Background

Numerous members of both houses of Congress have written to express their concerns on the matter of Elian Gonzalez. Some members, such as Rep. Serrano and Waters, support the child's prompt return to his father in Cuba. Others, such as Senator Mack and Rep. Menendez, request that you prevent INS from returning the child to Cuba before they can act to pass legislation to confer U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status on the boy. Still others, such as Senator Bingaman, urge you to steer clear of the political forces unleashed by this case. Rep. Jackson Lee urges you to veto any bills to confer status on the child, while attaching a letter in Spanish from Elian's grandmothers in which they request to meet with you. *pull out* *what status*

Your response indicates that the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is currently being challenged in federal court. The response also makes clear that you have endeavored to ensure that the INS decision would be made according to ~~the~~ applicable law and procedures, ~~and~~ not politics.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the *letter at Tab A* ~~attached response~~.

Attachments

Tab A Response to Letters from Congress

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Smaller
size?
if possible

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

~~As you know,~~ The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and ~~that the boy should be~~ reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is ~~currently under~~ ^{being} challenged in federal court. STC

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure ~~that~~ this decision ~~would be~~ ^{is} made according to ~~the~~ governing law and procedures, and not politics. ~~I hope that the challenge to the INS decision will be decided in court, and not through legislation.~~ ^{I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is}

^{Appreciate your} I want to ~~thank you~~ ^{see of} for enclosing the letter from Elian's grandmothers. I am pleased ~~that they had an opportunity to meet~~ with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner during their stay. MT

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this ~~compelling case.~~ ^{Difficult issue.}

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
~~United States~~ House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
CHARLES M. BRAIN

SUBJECT: Response to Letters from Members of Congress
Concerning the Elian Gonzalez Case

Purpose

To respond to nine letters from Congress concerning the Elian Gonzalez case.

Background

Numerous members of both houses of Congress have written to express their concerns on the matter of Elian Gonzalez. Some members, such as Representatives Serrano and Waters, support the child's prompt return to his father in Cuba. Others, such as Senator Mack and Representative Menendez, request that you prevent INS from returning the child to Cuba before they can act to pass legislation to confer U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status on the boy. Still others, such as Senator Bingaman, urge you to steer clear of the political forces unleashed by this case. Representative Lee urges you to veto any bills to confer status on the child, while attaching a letter in Spanish from Elian's grandmothers in which they ~~request~~ *ask* to meet with you.

Your response indicates that the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is currently being challenged in federal court. The response also makes clear that you have *tried* ~~endeavored~~ to ensure that the INS decision would be made according to applicable law and procedures, not politics.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Response to Letters from Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)

93/6

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2000 11:52 AM
To: Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC); @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: jackson-lee letter [UNCLASSIFIED]

kay -- Maria E. is fine with our changes, so the letter can go forward.

thanks -- WLP

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9909316

REFERRAL

DATE: 15 FEB 00

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: WATERS, MAXINE

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 10 FEB 00

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO LTRS FM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS RE ELIAN GONZALEZ CASE

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 16 FEB 00

COMMENT:

FOR



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Dear Sheila:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. We will continue to work with members of Congress, like you, to do everything possible to ensure that this matter is resolved in court, and not through legislation. [We will work with members of Congress, like you, to do everything possible to ensure that any challenge to the INS decision is resolved in court, not through legislation.] ~~[I share your view, and that of many of your colleagues, that any challenge to the INS decision should be resolved in court, not through legislation. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.]~~

I appreciate your enclosure of the letter from Elian's grandmothers. I am pleased they met with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner during their stay.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2000 9:37 AM
To: Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Cc: @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor;
@LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: 9316 - Jackson-Lee letter [UNCLASSIFIED]



0552POTUSletJackso
nLeeEG1__do...

Kay -- attached is the change to the letter. Please use the blue language (added by Dan Shapiro) and delete the red language (first sentence was Maria's proposed language, second sentence in brackets contained my suggested edits to Maria's language). Legislat was not comfortable with Maria's proposed formulation. I'll forward you their email FYI. Changes cleared by Legislat, Legal, Interam, and Multi.

thanks -- WLP

Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2000 9:42 AM
To: Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC); @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: FW: Maria's proposed change to jackson-lee letter [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Kay -- FYI reasons for editing Maria's proposed language. thanks -- WLP

-----Original Message-----

From: Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2000 7:37 PM
To: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Subject: FW: Maria's proposed change to jackson-lee letter [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Wendy -- I don't think this works. Assuming that "everything possible" includes a veto, I think these formulations go beyond what we are able to say at this point. I've inserted another proposed version which I think more accurately reflects where we are. See what you think. (As a fallback, I would consider using your formulation, with the words "to do everything possible" stricken. -- Dan

-----Original Message-----

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2000 1:52 PM
To: Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL); Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: Maria's proposed change to jackson-lee letter [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High



0552POTUSletJackso
nLeeEG1_.doc...

Dan, Mary and Caryn,

Marge called from Maria's office this morning to request a change in the Elian letter to Jackson-Lee. The proposed change is highlighted. The bracketed change that follows is my suggested way of handling her edits.

Please clear ASAP, letting me know which formulation you prefer (or another). Package has already gone forward from Exec Sec to Chuck.

thanks -- WLP

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

~~As you know,~~ ^{6/22/97 (P.S.)} The Immigration and Naturalization Service announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working ~~hard~~ to carry out the INS decision, which is ~~currently~~ ^{under} ~~being challenged~~ in federal court. ~~That is the appropriate place to resolve concerns about the that decision.~~ ¹⁷

Throughout this process, ^{is} I have tried to ensure ~~that this decision would be made according to the governing law and procedures; and not politics.~~ I ~~hope that the challenge to the INS decision will be decided in court, and not through legislation.~~

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this ~~compelling case.~~ ^{difficult issue.}

Sincerely,

^I ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~proper~~ ^{proper} resolution of the challenge to the INS Decision is in

↓
The Honorable Robert Menendez
House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

+ Duplicates for
REP DEUSCH & KENNEDY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Maxine:

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

~~As you know,~~ ^(INS) The Immigration and Naturalization Service ^{the INS} announced its decision in this case on January 5. ~~It decided that~~ Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is ~~currently being challenged~~ ^{under} in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure ~~that~~ this decision ~~would be~~ ^{is} made according to the governing law and procedures, ~~and~~ not politics.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this ~~compelling case.~~ ^{difficult issue.}

Sincerely,

The Honorable Maxine Waters
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

USE this
version for
the Velazquez
Letter

Also this version
for the
WATERS/Leq/Chaban
Letter

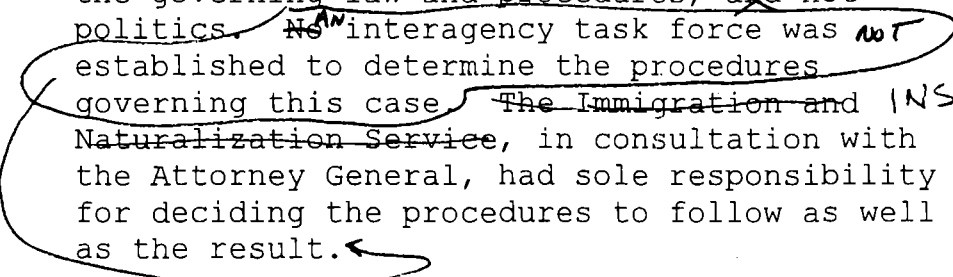
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Joe: 

Thank you for your letters regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

~~As you know,~~ ^(W) The Immigration and Naturalization Service ^{INS} announced its decision in this case on January 5. ~~It decided that~~ Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and that the boy should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working hard to carry out the INS decision, which is currently ~~being~~ ^{under} challenged in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure ~~that this decision would be made~~ according to the governing law and procedures, ~~and not~~ politics. ^{AN} ~~No~~ interagency task force was ^{NOT} established to determine the procedures governing this case. ~~The Immigration and INS Naturalization Service,~~ in consultation with the Attorney General, had sole responsibility for deciding the procedures to follow as well as the result. 

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this ~~compelling case.~~

^{Difficult} issue.

Sincerely,


The Honorable José Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Senator Mack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez. I share your concern for the well-being of this six-year-old boy.

~~As you know, The~~ Immigration and Naturalization Service^{INS} announced on January 5 its decision that Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Gonzalez, has the sole legal authority to speak for his son in immigration matters, and ~~that the boy~~ ^{STET} should be reunited with his father. INS and the Department of Justice are working ~~hard~~ to carry out the INS decision, which is ~~currently~~ ^{under} being challenged in federal court. ~~That is the appropriate place to resolve concerns about the that decision.~~

Throughout this process, I have tried to ensure ~~that this decision would be made according to the governing law and procedures, and not politics. I hope that the challenge to the INS decision will be decided in court, and not through legislation.~~

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this ~~compelling case.~~

^{Difficult issue.}

Sincerely,

^{I feel} the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in ^{Believe}

The Honorable Connie Mack
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

+ LOTT, NICHES, CING, CARRUT, CING