

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 4073				
Document ID: 0000266				
Stack: V	Row: 47	Section: 2	Shelf: 1	Position: 1

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0000266
RECEIVED: 12 JAN 00 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: VELAZQUEZ, NYDIA M

DOC DATE: 10 JAN 00
SOURCE REF: 408776

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS
CO

CUBA

PERSONS: GONZALEZ, ELIAN

SUBJECT: EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR GONZALEZ TO RETURN TO CUBA

ACTION: SEE 9909316 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 24 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

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MILES LACKEY'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0000266

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 PATTEN
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 00011216 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 00020415 SEE 9909316 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

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LOGREF:

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CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
PATTEN

FOR CONCURRENCE
HOLLIS
LACKEY
NAPLAN

FOR INFO
BAKER
SCHWARTZ
VALENZUELA

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
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DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Make fixes and

send

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

0266

January 28, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ 
FROM: WENDY PATTEN 
SUBJECT: Letter from Rep. Nydia Velazquez Supporting INS
Decision in the Case of Elian Gonzalez

Attached is a memorandum to the President and proposed response to a letter from Rep. Nydia Velazquez expressing her support for the INS decision to reunite Elian Gonzalez with his father in Cuba.

The NSC received the incoming correspondence on January 12, 2000.

Concurrences by: Mary DeRosa, Daniel Shapiro, Arturo Valenzuela *3 via email*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letter to Rep. Velazquez on Elian Gonzalez
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

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

0266

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

DISTRICT OFFICES:

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

173 AVENUE B
NEW YORK, NY 10005
(212) 673-2997

16 COURT STREET
SUITE 1006
BROOKLYN, NY 11241
(718) 222-5919

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

C O V E R

FAX

S H E E T

**Office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2361
Fax: (202) 226-0327**

To: Lawrence Stein, White House Congressional Liaison
Fax: (202) 456-6221
From: Carlos A. Gonzalez, Legislative Assistant
Date: January 10, 2000
Pages: 2 including cover sheet

Message:

Attached is a letter addressed to the President from the Congresswoman, concerning the Cuban child, Elian Gonzalez. This letter has also been sent by U.S. Mail. Please ensure the President's prompt receipt. Thank you.

If you have difficulties with this transmission please call (202) 225-2361

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT A. BRADTKE
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: CHARLES M. BRAIN
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Courtney Crouch at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT), concerning the case of three Israeli soldiers, Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman, who have been missing in action since 1982;
- 2) Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY) and five other Members of Congress, concerning the promotion and protection of United States interests in Haiti; and,
- 3) Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY), concerning the case of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban child recently rescued off the coast of Florida.

Enclosures

JAN11 20:01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
CHARLES M. BRAIN

SUBJECT: Letter from Rep. Nydia Velazquez Supporting INS
Decision in Case of Elian Gonzalez

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Rep. Nydia Velazquez expressing her support for the decision of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to reunite Elian Gonzalez with his father in Cuba.

Background

Rep. Nydia Velazquez wrote to commend your efforts to secure the safe return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. Her letter indicates her strong support for the INS decision in this case. She expresses her view that a father should not be denied custody of his son because of the political relationship between two countries, and that the Gonzalez case should be handled not as a political issue, but according to U.S. laws and the "natural law" of parent and child.

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, not politics.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached response.

Attachment

Tab A Response to Letter on Elian Gonzalez

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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.

As you know, the Immigration and Naturalization Service 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 in federal court. *and*

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

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

Sincerely,

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 408776
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 01/14/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE NYDIA VELAZQUEZ

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT EFFORTS IN THE SAFE RETURN OF ELIAN
GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER IN CUBA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		ORG	2000/01/14		C	00/01/19
ACTION COMMENTS ATTN: CHUCK BRAIN						
NSC						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS

cc: Mark Magawa

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

ACTION CODES:

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEPC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOP) EXT-62590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO
RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

AN 1919:18

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT A. BRADTKE
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: CHARLES M. BRAIN
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Courtney Crouch at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA), requesting the President to express the United States' commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons in the State of the Union address;
- 2) Rep. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-FL) and Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI), concerning the case of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban child recently rescued off the coast of Florida;
- 3) Rep. Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA) and thirty-one Members of Congress, concerning the recent final vote in the United Nations on how to define the sexual trafficking of women; and,
- 4) Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY), concerning the case of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban child recently rescued off the coast of Florida.

Enclosures

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3212

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[Handwritten signature] M.C.

100-2311 M10-16
U.S. SENATE
JAN 11 1966



PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Patten

LOG NUMBER:

0266

DUE DATE:

24 Jan

DATE STAFFED:

12 Jan

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

☒

PRESIDENT

☐

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Velazquez, Nydia M

See 9316 IFA

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.