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Albuquerque Cuban Resettlement

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TALKING POINTS ON ALBUQUERQUE CUBAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

- We welcome your input and appreciate that you have shared your concerns about the Cuban refugee resettlement in Albuquerque. The Administration welcomes the opportunity to work with you to minimize any adverse consequences that resettlement programs may have on your community.
- We particularly understand your concern about the impact of Cuban resettlement on criminal activity in Albuquerque. To address it, the Department of Justice is making available the names of all known aliens convicted of an offense classified by statute as an aggravated felony -- among which the U.S. Attorney's office has particularly targeted prior convictions for drug offenses. This information is part of a national database, known as the National Automated Immigration Lookout System (NAILS), designed to aid federal, state, and local law-enforcement in locating and apprehending resettled criminals. In 1995 and 1996, the Department worked with the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety to establish a state-wide database of resettled criminals.
- The ultimate decision about where an individual will be resettled is made on a case-by-case basis by the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC). Nevertheless, the INS is seeking to minimize further any future risk that criminal aliens will be resettled in Albuquerque. To this end, the INS has advised the USCC to reduce the number of high crime risk individuals it resettles in Albuquerque.
- The Department of Justice has designated special agents in the FBI, DEA, INS, and prosecutors in the U.S. Attorneys to focus full-time on the problems you outlined and to ensure that resettled criminals are identified, convicted, and deported. These officials bring special expertise to the problems you have discussed because they are part of a special task force -- along with the New Mexico State Police, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, the Bernalillo District Attorney's Office, and the Albuquerque Police Department -- designed to attack organized crime and drug offenders.
- The Administration believes this strategy is working. As of the end of July, the task force investigating organized crime by Cuban nationals had charged 51 defendants in 10 federal conspiracy indictments. Most of the indictments have been for conspiracy to distribute cocaine base. So far in 1997, 77 Cuban parolees had been arrested for immigration violations -- all these parolees are in custody.
- The task force is also working to identify individuals who would qualify for aggravated felon status. Once they are identified, these individuals will be arrested and placed in INS detention facilities until they can be removed. The INS has already placed detainers on at least eighty-three Cuban nationals while these individuals complete their state or federal sentences.
- The Department of Justice will continue to identify Cuban nationals who sell even small

amounts of cocaine base for criminal referral to the Bernalillo County District Attorney. After conviction, these individuals will be targeted for removal under the immigration initiative. Sixty-five Cuban nationals who are currently under various stages of litigation will be targeted for removal.

- Finally, the Administration will continue to work with the other members of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, including the state and local law enforcement agencies composing it, to seize and pursue the forfeiture of property used to distribute cocaine base or any other illicit substance.

Blair - Romano
Vet

THE WHITE HOUSE

Clunk Raff @ 7-1-97

Attached is the correspondence
I mentioned to you in re: Mayor
Chavez and the Justice
Dept. The Mayor is not
satisfied with INS. over -

Any more we can or should
do to help from the WH?

Thanks for your attention
to this matter.

Wally Stana
6-7060



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Commissioner

425 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536
HQOPS 50/18/3

JUN 16 1997

The Honorable Martin J. Chavez
Mayor of Albuquerque
1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mayor Chavez:

The Attorney General requested that I respond to the concerns you raised at your meeting with her regarding the resettlement of Cuban entrants in Albuquerque and criminal activity by recent Cuban arrivals in your community. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is sensitive to the impact recent resettlement programs have had on your community.

In response to your concerns, the INS and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) will concentrate in calendar year 1997 on resettling in Albuquerque only families who have no ties elsewhere in the United States. Total resettlement for the year will not exceed 80 individuals.

However, we cannot honor your requests to impose a one year moratorium on Cuban resettlement in Albuquerque and to prohibit Cuban entrants from relocating to Albuquerque once they have been admitted to the United States. We have given careful consideration to your requests and conclude that a total restriction on the placement of a particular nationality in a specified geographical location would establish an undesirable precedent. Parole decisions are made on a case-by-case basis after consideration is given to the circumstances of each individual case. These prohibitions could lead to similar requests for restrictions on the placement and movement of other refugees and immigrants elsewhere in the United States. This would have serious consequences on the fair and orderly implementation of United States refugee and resettlement policy and might lead to litigation.

With regard to Cuban aggravated felons, we have taken a number of important actions. As of March 19, a joint task force, comprised of the Albuquerque Police Department, New Mexico State Police, INS, and other Federal agencies, had arrested 30 aggravated felons and placed INS detainees on 71 aggravated felons incarcerated in the New Mexico prison system. In addition, the INS Officer-in-Charge in Albuquerque met with Bernalillo County detention officials and developed a process for notifying INS before releasing aliens, who have been convicted of an aggravated felony, on parole or probation.

*Spoke to
Chavez 6-30-97
No violation
Present simply
requesting copy
of letter.*

Page 2

The Honorable Martin J. Chavez

Our investigation indicates that many Cubans convicted of an aggravated felony have moved to locations outside New Mexico. The INS is working closely with other local law enforcement agencies to locate and apprehend these individuals.

The INS is currently placing the names of all known aliens convicted of an aggravated felony in the National Automated Immigration Lookout System (NAIIS). The system interfaces with the Interagency Border Inspection System (IBIS). This will assist Federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities in locating aliens convicted of an aggravated felony.

With regard to your request that INS revoke the parole of aliens who have not been convicted of an aggravated felony, but still may pose a threat to the community, we will consider your request solely on a case-by-case basis after we have weighed the information provided by the police department, the Office of the State's Attorney, and the court judgement or conviction documents.

The INS shares your concerns about crime in Albuquerque. Let me assure you that we will continue to work closely with the USCC to provide the best resettlement services available. We will continue our rigorous screening procedures for people seeking admission to the United States.

Sincerely,



Doris Meissner
Commissioner

FAX FROM INS/HQOCR

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS



BERT RIZZO TO:

Susan

456 6220

NAME

NUMBER

PAGES: 2

**OUR NUMBERS:
202-514-2535
202-514-1117(fax)**



Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

February 26, 1977

VIA FACSIMILE (202-514-4371) AND U.S. MAIL

Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Rm. 4400
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

RE: Crimes Committed by Cuban Parolees

Dear Ms. Reno:

Three months have passed since I wrote to you regarding the problem of lawlessness by Cuban parolees released in Albuquerque under the auspices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Subsequently, on December 16, 1996, I met with you in your office to discuss this matter, and requested (1) that a one-year moratorium be imposed on Cuban resettlement in Albuquerque, (2) that INS exercise discretion under 8 CFR § 212.5(d)(2)(i) to terminate parole for Cuban parolees where the public interest no longer warrants their presence in this community, and (3) that INS condition parole upon Cuban immigrants not being permitted to relocate in Albuquerque.

*racial
implications*

To date, we have not been informed of any action being taken on this matter by the Department of Justice. We urgently request that this matter be resolved.

Sincerely,

MARTIN J. CHAVEZ

Good for You, Albuquerque!





Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

April 7, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

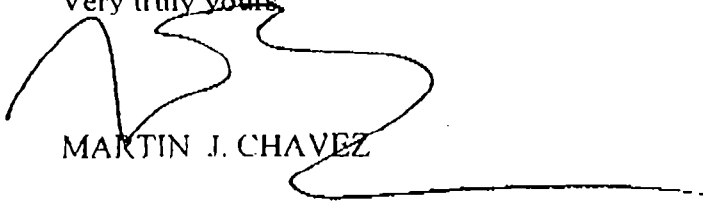
The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Rm. 440
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

RE: Crimes Committed by Cuban Parolees

Dear Attorney General Reno:

As of today, approximately 30% of the homicides in Albuquerque this year have been committed or suffered by Cuban parolees. Other open shootings related to Cuban parolees have not resulted in death. You were kind enough to meet with me on December 16, 1996. My staff has communicated with your staff. I wrote you again on February 26, 1997. To date, we have still had no decision from your office regarding the principal three issues raised at our meeting. The federal government visited this problem upon our community. We need your assistance in resolving it. At the very least, we need an answer.

Very truly yours,



MARTIN J. CHAVEZ



**LEGAL DEPARTMENT****(505) 768-4500**

June 16, 1997

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**TO:** Martin J. Chavez, Mayor**FROM:** Robert M. White, City Attorney *RMW***SUBJECT:** General McCaffrey Visit

We have had no formal response to two letters to General McCaffrey inviting him to Albuquerque. John O'Donnell has also been in touch with General McCaffrey's office. John advises me they have received the letters and will hold them until a trip to New Mexico or Albuquerque is being planned. Their intention is to discuss with us at that time events for the trip. I have attached copies of the letters for your consideration.

RMW/jla