

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 9:30:29 AM
FROM Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT CUBAN BOY, most recent [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY****TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT**

Elian PG March 30 AFT.doc
CUBAN BOY
Evening, March 30, 2000

CONTEXT: Wednesday evening, in a televised roundtable discussion from Havana, Fidel Castro indicated that Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, was prepared to come to the U.S. to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. His offer had several caveats. First, Castro appeared to stipulate that, before leaving Cuba, the father would need assurance that U.S. authorities would grant the father custody in the U.S., presumably for the duration of the court process. In a press conference this afternoon, Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, confirmed that the father was willing to come to the U.S. as soon as he had assurances from INS that he would have custody of Elian for the duration of the court proceedings.

Second, Castro also proposed that Elian's father be accompanied not only by his wife and Elian's half-brother, but by 12 of his classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a special adviser. Craig told the press this afternoon that visa applications would be submitted in two

different groups, and that Elian's 4 immediate family members would apply for visas today. Craig later delivered a letter to State requesting visa applications for the four family members as well as for National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, but was informed that visa application and issuance can only be done in Havana. Craig told the press that only after Elian's father has received the assurances he is seeking regarding custody of Elian while in the U.S., would visa requests for the remaining members of the entourage be submitted. Once the U.S. Interests Section receives the proper visa applications for Elian's immediate family members, State has indicated that it will process those requests expeditiously, per established guidelines.

Discussions took place on Wednesday and Thursday between INS and the boy's Miami relatives. INS is continuing its attempt to obtain a commitment from the family that they will relinquish custody of Elian if their appeal of the district court decision in this case fails. INS had originally threatened to revoke Elian's temporary parole status Thursday morning at 9 a.m. if the great-uncle did not sign such a statement. After Thursday's discussions, INS extended Elian's temporary parole status until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4. Discussions between INS and Elian's Miami relatives will continue on Monday, April 3, at 10 a.m. According to INS, revocation of temporary parole status would not result in immediate enforcement action, but would set the stage for a transfer of custody and return to Cuba absent a Court injunction.

Last week, a federal district court in Miami dismissed a lawsuit filed by the great uncle of Elian Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case. Earlier this week, the boy's family asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to expedite their appeal, and the appellate court set an expedited hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held by

May 8.

On February 18, the INS replied to a letter from Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, in which he asked INS to transfer custody of the child to a different uncle in Miami while awaiting his son's return. INS determined at that time that the great uncle's home where Elian presently stays was adequate for his temporary care while a federal court reviewed the INS decision, and that it would be inadvisable then to move the child to a new and unfamiliar environment.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses of Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on the child would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a Florida state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle against the boy's father in Cuba. The Vice President on Thursday broke with the Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family.

What is your reaction to Castro's statement that Elian's father is prepared to come to the U.S. and is requesting a visa?

* As the Departments of State and Justice have indicated, we believe that the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter.

* In particular, the State Department has indicated that once it receives properly filed visa applications for Elian's father, stepmother, half-brother, and cousin, these visa requests will be processed expeditiously per established State Department guidelines.

* We continue to closely monitor developments on this issue.

Has the U.S. received any visa requests yet from Elian's father or any other

Cubans involved in this issue?

* The State Department can provide you with information regarding its receipt of any particular visa paperwork.

If Asked Only: What was the nature of Greg Craig's meetings at the State Department on Thursday?

* Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, met with State Department officials on Thursday and delivered a letter requesting that some visas be issued.

* The Department explained to him that visa applications and issuance would have to be done in Havana at the U.S. Interests Section, rather than at the State Department.

If Asked Only: Did Greg Craig request a visa specifically for Ricardo Alarcon, and if so, will it be issued?

* We refer all questions about particular visa requests to the State Department.

What is your reaction to Castro's request to have many additional Cubans accompany Elian's father?

* Any visa requests will be considered by the State Department in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines.

What was the outcome of the meetings held Wednesday and Thursday between the INS and the boy's relatives?

* Meetings between the INS and the boy's relatives will be continued on Monday, April 3, at 10 a.m.

* We refer you to the INS and the Department of Justice for specific information on the meetings being held with Elian's family.

Any comment regarding Greg Craig's press conference today?

* We refer any questions regarding Mr. Craig's statement to the INS and the Justice Department.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statement today urging Congress to immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family members?

* We refer all questions regarding the Vice President's statement to his office.

* The President has said that he hopes the challenge to the INS decision will be resolved in court, not in the Congress, and he opposes this legislation.

* The President has not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but he would not rule out such an option.

Will the Department of Justice move forward with the termination of Elian's parole Friday morning if the family does not commit to comply with the instructions of the INS concerning the transfer of Elian if the government prevails on appeal?

* INS announced on Thursday evening that it will extend Elian's temporary parole status until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4.

* The issue of Elian's temporary parole status and its potential termination is a legal matter for the Justice Department and the INS to handle. We refer all other questions to them for more information.

* As the Attorney General has stated, the Justice Department is committed to reuniting Elian with his father in an orderly, fair, and prompt manner.

What is your reaction to the Miami relatives' decision to appeal the district court's decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals?

* This matter is in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice. We refer you to them for more information.

What's your reaction to the federal judge's decision, dismissing the lawsuit filed by Elian's Miami relatives?

* We are pleased with that decision. It affirms the INS' judgment that this child should be reunited with his father.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority to speak on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr. Gonzalez has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they handled this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and want to see it carried out.

Does the White House support the Attorney General's and Elian's father's view that the Florida state court does not have jurisdiction over the boy?

* As we have said before, this matter is appropriately in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice.

Do you have any reaction to Cuban President Fidel Castro's allegations that the Miami relatives might remove Elian to a third country, infect him with a contagious disease or even kill him?

* These allegations are outrageous.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 11:47:32 AM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT CORRECTED VERSION - updated Elian guidance
[UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McLean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

TEXT_BODY

Corrected version of elian guidance. Please disregard prior

version I sent about 5 mins. ago.

thanks -- WLP

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT CubanboyPGApril 33.doc
CUBAN BOY
April 3, 2000

CONTEXT: Yesterday, in televised remarks in Havana, Fidel Castro indicated that Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, was prepared to come to the U.S. on his own as soon as today to retrieve his son, provided that he could return with him immediately to Cuba. Otherwise, visa applications would be submitted for a group of 28 people. The request for visas for 28 people was submitted this morning to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, indicating their desire to travel tomorrow.

As Castro announced last week, the entourage would accompany Elian's father in order to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. His offer had several caveats. First, Castro appeared to stipulate that, before leaving Cuba, the father would need assurance that U.S. authorities would grant the father custody in the U.S., presumably for the duration of the court process. In a press conference last week, Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, confirmed that the father was willing to come to the U.S. as soon as he had assurances from INS that he would have custody of Elian for the duration of the court proceedings.

Castro also proposed last week that Elian's father be accompanied not only by his wife and Elian's half-brother, but by 12 of his classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a special adviser. Craig told the press last week that visa applications would be submitted in two different groups, and that Elian's 4 immediate family members would apply for visas immediately. Craig later delivered a letter to State requesting

visa applications for the four family members as well as for National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, but was informed that visa application and issuance can only be done in Havana. Craig told the press that only after Elian's father has received the assurances he is seeking regarding custody of Elian while in the U.S., would visa requests for the remaining members of the entourage be submitted. Once the U.S. Interests Section receives the proper visa applications for Elian's immediate family members, State has indicated that it will process those requests expeditiously, per established guidelines.

Discussions resumed today between INS and the boy's Miami relatives. INS had originally threatened to revoke Elian's temporary parole status Thursday morning at 9 a.m. if the great-uncle did not sign such a statement. After Thursday's discussions, INS extended Elian's temporary parole status until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4. According to INS, revocation of temporary parole status would not result in immediate enforcement action, but would set the stage for a transfer of custody and return to Cuba absent a Court injunction.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision two weeks ago, in which a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the great uncle of Elian Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case. The great uncle subsequently asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to expedite an appeal of this decision, and the appellate court set an expedited hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held by May 8.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses of Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on the child would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a

Florida

state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle against the boy's father in Cuba. The Vice President on Thursday broke with the Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family.

What is your reaction to Castro's statement that Elian's father is prepared to come to the U.S. and is requesting a visa?

* As the Departments of State and Justice have indicated, we believe that the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter.

* In particular, the State Department has indicated that once it receives properly filed visa applications for Elian's father, stepmother, half-brother, and cousin, these visa requests will be processed expeditiously per established State Department guidelines.

* We continue to closely monitor developments on this issue.

Has the U.S. received any visa requests yet from Elian's father or any other Cubans involved in this issue?

* The State Department, through the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, received visa applications for 28 people this morning. It is currently reviewing these applications.

What is your reaction to Castro's request to have many additional Cubans accompany Elian's father?

* Any visa requests will be considered by the State Department in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines.

If Asked Only: What was the nature of Greg Craig's meetings at the State Department on Thursday?

* Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, met with State Department officials on Thursday and delivered a letter requesting that some visas be issued.

* The Department explained to him that visa applications and issuance would have to be done in Havana at the U.S. Interests Section, rather than at the State Department.

If Asked Only: Did Greg Craig request a visa specifically for Ricardo Alarcon, and if so, will it be issued?

* We refer all questions about particular visa requests to the State Department.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statement today urging Congress to immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family members?

* We refer all questions regarding the Vice President's statement to his office.

* The President has said that he hopes the challenge to the INS decision will be resolved in court, not in the Congress, and he opposes this legislation.

* The President has not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but he would not rule out such an option.

Will the Department of Justice move forward with the termination of Elian's parole tomorrow if the family does not commit to comply with the instructions of the INS concerning the transfer of Elian if the government prevails on appeal?

* The issue of Elian's temporary parole status and its potential termination is a

legal matter for the Justice Department and the INS to handle. We refer all other questions to them for more information.

* As the Attorney General has stated, the Justice Department is committed to reuniting Elian with his father in an orderly, fair, and prompt manner.

What is your reaction to the Miami relatives' decision to appeal the district court's decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals?

* This matter is in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice. We refer you to them for more information.

What's your reaction to the federal judge's decision, dismissing the lawsuit filed by Elian's Miami relatives?

* We are pleased with that decision. It affirms the INS' judgment that this child should be reunited with his father.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority to speak on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr. Gonzalez has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they handled this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and want to see it carried out.

Does the White House support the Attorney General's and Elian's father's view that the Florida state court does not have jurisdiction over the boy?

* As we have said before, this matter is appropriately in the hands of the INS

and the Department of Justice.

Do you have any reaction to Cuban President Fidel Castro's allegations that the Miami relatives might remove Elian to a third country, infect him with a contagious disease or even kill him?

* These allegations are outrageous.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 12:31:44 PM
FROM Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)
Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC)
Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Gire, Cynthia L. (EXSEC)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Hilliard, Brenda I. (EXSEC)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Joshlyn, Gay L. (ADMIN)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)
Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC)
Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

I did transfer him to Mary D., but I'll ask comms to send this.
He's probably already in the motorcade by now.
TJ

-----Original

Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)

Sent: Monday, April

03, 2000 12:31 PM

To: @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary

Subject: FW:

Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

Cathy -- would be
good to fax this out to bob on the road -- or call him with it unless
he just connected up with Mary D and thus got it directly from her...

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

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Monday,

April 03, 2000 12:12 PM

To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor

Cc: @INTERAM
- Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: Update
on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

Please pass to Jim, cc:
Mara. Thank you.

Jim,

This morning, the Cuban government delivered to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana a diplomatic note and a request for visas for 28 people. The request indicated their desire to travel to the U.S. as soon as possible. The list includes Ricardo Alarcon.

The Cuban government provided official passports for all but two of the individuals listed, which signals that they view this group as an official delegation. This fact, however, does not affect State's processing of the visa applications.

The State Department is prepared to grant visas immediately to the family members (Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his wife, their child, and Elian's 10 year-old cousin). They continue to review and discuss the other visa applications. In particular, State is considering whether to approve visas for a group of 2 to 3 additional people, who include Elian's kindergarten teacher, the family pediatrician, and a psychologist.

State met with officials from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington this morning at 10:30. The GOC gave State a translated copy of Castro's speech from last evening, and reiterated Castro's message that they propose two options:

1. A group of 28 people would travel to DC to stay with Elian until the judicial process is completed.
2. Elian's father would travel alone at any time and to any place in the U.S. in order to pick up the child and return immediately to Cuba.

We remain in close contact with State and Justice and will provide further updates throughout the day. By the end of the day, we should have a decision from State on the core group of visa applications (the family plus the additional 2 to 3) and also have a sense of where they stand on the other visa requests.

Wendy

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 12:41:06 PM

FROM Porterfield, Patrick C. (WHSR)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT RE: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO

Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Bayley, Douglas C. (WHSR)
Blackburn, John (WHSR)
Bresnahan, Gary E. (WHSR/STP)
Broadwick, Bonnie . (WHSR)
Crowder, Stevan D. (WHSR/STP)
Erdahl, Douglas M. (WHSR)
Fuchs, Joachim D. (WHSR)
Jansen, Christian P. (WHSR)
Laskowski, Gregory J. (WHSR)
McGee, Jenny A. (WHSR)
Porterfield, Patrick C. (WHSR)
Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC)
Reyes, David (WHSR)
Rickard, Robin S. (WHSR)
Rogers, Elizabeth B. (WHSR)
Schrader, Joel M. (WHSR)
Sibley, Matthew W. (WHSR)
Sigler, Ralph H. (WHSR)
Bayley, Douglas C. (WHSR)
Gentile, Donald J. (WHSR)
McGee, Jenny A. (WHSR)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC)
Rickard, Robin S. (WHSR)
Rogers, Elizabeth B. (WHSR)
Schrader, Joel M. (WHSR)
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Gire, Cynthia L. (EXSEC)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Hilliard, Brenda I. (EXSEC)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Joshlyn, Gay L. (ADMIN)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)

Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC)
Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

Message has been sent to the tripsite. JD

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

From: Jacobson,
Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:33 PM
To: @COMM
- WHSR Comm Officers; @SDO-WHSR Senior Duty Officers; @EXECSEC -
Executive Secretary
Subject: FW: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

Please
send to Bradtke on the road. Thanks.
TJ

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

From:
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:30 PM
To: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT
- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: RE: Update on
Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

One legal note -- by statute,
it is the Consular Affairs officer in Havana that has the authority
to decide whether to grant the visas. State can make recommendations,
but they are not binding. The Secretary of State can deny a visa
for foreign policy reasons, however. The Secretary can also make
decisions on visas for government officials who are covered by the
212(f) proclamation on Cuba. The only government official of which
we are aware is Alarcon, although it is possible that there are others
among the 28 applicants.

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:12 PM
To: @NSA
- Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL -
Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral

and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case
[UNCLASSIFIED]

Please pass to Jim, cc: Mara. Thank you.

Jim,

This morning, the Cuban government delivered to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana a diplomatic note and a request for visas for 28 people. The request indicated their desire to travel to the U.S. as soon as possible. The list includes Ricardo Alarcon.

The Cuban government provided official passports for all but two of the individuals listed, which signals that they view this group as an official delegation. This fact, however, does not affect State's processing of the visa applications.

The State Department is prepared to grant visas immediately to the family members (Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his wife, their child, and Elian's 10 year-old cousin). They continue to review and discuss the other visa applications. In particular, State is considering whether to approve visas for a group of 2 to 3 additional people, who include Elian's kindergarten teacher, the family pediatrician, and a psychologist.

State met with officials from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington this morning at 10:30. The GOC gave State a translated copy of Castro's speech from last evening, and reiterated Castro's message that they propose two options:

1. A group of 28 people would travel to DC to stay with Elian until the judicial process is completed.
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We remain in close contact with State and Justice and will provide further updates throughout the day. By the end of the day, we should have a decision from State on the core group of visa applications (the family plus the additional 2 to 3) and also have a sense of where they stand on the other visa requests.

Wendy

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 3:18:06 PM

FROM Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Elian Update [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)

TEXT_BODY Mary, Wendy,

Susan Synder from Wendy Sherman's office passed on Wendy's request that we pass this to Steinberg

Paper on visa requests went forward to MKA. She was ok with the six visas, but with a change in language.

- * Core four visa are fine (father, step-mother, half-brother, cousin).
- * If Juan Miguel thinks it is necessary the pediatrician and teacher are ok as well.
- * Other 22 visas are under review right now.

Caryn

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/03/2000 6:18:57 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

I will. Sorry (I have already violated this rule a second time today, when I sent the email on the approval of the six visas). I should have left this for you to review when I rushed off to my meeting.

thanks -- WLP

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

From: DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:31 PM
To: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Subject: FW: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

Wendy

-- I know things are rushed, but please clear e-mails with me before sending to the front office.

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

From: DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:30 PM
To: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: RE: Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

One legal note -- by statute, it is the Consular Affairs officer in Havana that has the authority to decide whether to grant the visas. State can make recommendations, but they are not binding. The Secretary of State can deny a visa

for foreign policy reasons, however. The Secretary can also make decisions on visas for government officials who are covered by the 212(f) proclamation on Cuba. The only government official of which we are aware is Alarcon, although it is possible that there are others among the 28 applicants.

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Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 12:12 PM

To: @NSA

- Natl Security Advisor

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL -

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

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Section in Washington this morning at 10:30. The GOC gave State a translated copy of Castro's speech from last evening, and reiterated Castro's message that they propose two options:

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Wendy

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/04/2000 9:09:18 AM
FROM Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: are you trying to call me? I'm on a conf call re: Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

actually, just found both here... but thanks!

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 9:09 AM
To: Gobush,
Matthew N. (PRESS)
Subject: RE: are you trying to call me? I'm
on a conf call re: Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

yes -- and Justice's as
well -- come by

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

From: Gobush, Matthew
N. (PRESS)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 9:08 AM
To: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Subject: RE: are you trying to call me? I'm on
a conf call re: Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

i am. do you have a copy
of the State Dept. statement released last night re. visas? if so,
i'll drop by asap... thanks.

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 9:07 AM
To: Gobush,
Matthew N. (PRESS)
Subject: are you trying to call me? I'm on
a conf call re: Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/04/2000 10:35:40 AM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT updated Elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

TEXT_BODY

Revised Elian guidance. Legal/Mary -- please send any comments directly to @press. Thanks --- WLP

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT CubanboyPG34.doc
CUBAN BOY
April 4, 2000

CONTEXT: This morning, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana issued visas to Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his wife and child, Elian's 10 year-old cousin, and a pediatrician and teacher. They could travel to the U.S. as early as today. The request for visas for 22 other people remains under consideration. Sunday, in televised remarks in Havana, Fidel Castro indicated that Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, was prepared to come to the U.S. on his own to retrieve his son, provided that he could return with him immediately to Cuba. Alternatively, a group of 27 people would accompany Elian's father in order to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. This group would include not only Elian's four family members, but also 12 of his classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a special adviser.

Castro offered several caveats last week. First, Castro appeared to stipulate that, before leaving Cuba, the father would need assurance that U.S. authorities would grant the father custody in the U.S., presumably for the duration of the court process. Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, confirmed last week that the father was willing to come to the U.S. as soon as he had assurances from INS that he would have custody of Elian for the duration of the court proceedings.

Discussions are continuing this morning between INS and the boy's Miami relatives. INS had originally threatened to revoke Elian's temporary parole status Thursday, March 30 at 9 a.m. if the great-uncle did not sign such a statement. After Thursday's discussions, INS extended Elian's

temporary parole status until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4. Last night, INS issued a statement, indicating that this scheduled revocation of parole has been superseded by the expected arrival of Elian's father in the U.S. and that once he arrives, INS will begin the process of transferring parole care of Elian from his great uncle to his father.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision two weeks ago, in which a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the great uncle of Elian Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case. The great uncle subsequently asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to expedite an appeal of this decision, and the appellate court set an expedited hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held by May 8.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses of Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on the child would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a Florida state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle against the boy's father in Cuba. The Vice President on Thursday broke with the Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family.

What is your reaction to Elian's father's impending travel to the U.S.?

* As the Departments of State and Justice have indicated, we believe that the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter.

* Last night, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana approved visa applications for Elian's father, stepmother, half-brother, and cousin, as well as a pediatrician

and teacher. These visas are being issued this morning.

* The remaining 22 visa requests remain under consideration by the State Department.

When will the father travel?

* We do not know when he plans to travel.

What is your reaction to Castro's request to have many additional Cubans accompany Elian's father?

* These visa requests will be considered by the State Department in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines.

If Asked Only: What was the nature of Greg Craig's meetings at the State Department on Thursday?

* Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, met with State Department officials on Thursday and delivered a letter requesting that some visas be issued.

* The Department explained to him that visa applications and issuance would have to be done in Havana at the U.S. Interests Section, rather than at the State Department.

If Asked Only: Did Greg Craig request a visa specifically for Ricardo Alarcon, and if so, will it be issued?

* We refer all questions about particular visa requests to the State Department.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statement last week urging Congress to immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family members?

* We refer all questions regarding the Vice President's statement to his office.

* The President has said that he hopes the challenge to the INS decision will be resolved in court, not in the Congress, and he opposes this legislation.

* The President has not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but he would not rule out such an option.

Will the Department of Justice move forward with the termination of Elian's parole if the family does not commit to comply with the instructions of the INS concerning the transfer of Elian if the government prevails on appeal?

* The issue of Elian's temporary parole status and its potential termination is a legal matter for the Justice Department and the INS to handle. We refer all other questions to them for more information.

* As the Attorney General has stated, the Justice Department is committed to reuniting Elian with his father in an orderly, fair, and prompt manner.

What is your reaction to the Miami relatives' decision to appeal the district court's decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals?

* This matter is in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice. We refer you to them for more information.

What's your reaction to the federal judge's decision, dismissing the lawsuit filed by Elian's Miami relatives?

* We are pleased with that decision. It affirms the INS' judgment that this child should be reunited with his father.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority to speak on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr. Gonzalez has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they handled this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and want to see it carried out.

Does the White House support the Attorney General's and Elian's father's view that the Florida state court does not have jurisdiction over the boy?

* As we have said before, this matter is appropriately in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice.

Do you have any reaction to Cuban President Fidel Castro's allegations that the Miami relatives might remove Elian to a third country, infect him with a contagious disease or even kill him?

* These allegations are outrageous.

4

4

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/04/2000 1:06:30 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON 1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON 04/03/2000
DECLASSIFYON 04/04/2010
SUBJECT FW: Pkg 2237 -- Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McLean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

TEXT_BODY Dora -- has this come back yet?

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

From: Joshi,
M. Kay (EXSEC)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 11:29 AM
To: @MULTILAT
- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Cc: @UP - APNSA Special
Assistants; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: Pkg 2237 --
Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Jim Steinberg sent
the subject package back with a note: redo/update. Attached is
the document. Please update as soon as possible and return via e-mail.

Thanks.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines,
September 11, 2006

By M NARA, Date 9/14/16

2012-0331-6

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

2237POTUSmemo.doc

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Status of Elian Gonzalez Issue

Castro's Announcement: In a televised roundtable discussion from Havana on Wednesday evening, Fidel Castro indicated that the father of Elian Gonzalez, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, was prepared to come to the United States to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. In itself, this could be a welcome development; the Justice Department has already indicated that the father's travel to the United States, where he could be close to his son, would facilitate an outcome to this matter.

Castro's offer, however, had several additional elements. Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, told the press Thursday afternoon that before the father travels to the United States, he needs assurances from INS that he will have custody of Elian for the duration of the court proceedings. INS officials inform us that such a custody arrangement would be the normal course of action. Craig held preliminary discussions on Thursday afternoon with the INS about possible arrangements for the father's travel, and these discussions will continue today.

The other details of Castro's offer are more unusual. Castro proposed that Elian's father be accompanied not only by his wife (Elian's stepmother) and his other child, but also by 12 of Elian's classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors (including

psychologists), and a legal adviser. State and INS do not believe that such an entourage would be conducive to a successful resolution of this matter, and note that some members of the support group would not qualify for visas under current guidelines.

Visa Requests: Craig delivered a letter to State on Thursday afternoon, requesting visas for Elian's father, stepmother, half brother, and cousin, as well as for National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon. Formal requests for visas may be made at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana today, and the Department of State has said it will give properly filed visa requests for the four family members expedited consideration under established State guidelines. State has not indicated how it will treat a visa request for Alarcon. Craig also told the press that once Juan Gonzalez receives the assurances he seeks from INS regarding custody of Elian, then visa requests for the remaining members of the entourage would be submitted.

Discussions With Family in Florida: INS has proposed holding off any action on return to Cuba for Elian pending the outcome of an expedited appeals process, but has insisted on an agreement with the Miami relatives that, if the family loses the appeal, they will cooperate in an orderly transfer of custody. DOJ and INS believe such a commitment is critical to ensuring some reasonable resolution of this matter. INS has said it will revoke Elian's current parole status if the great-uncle does not sign such an agreement. According to INS, such revocation would not result in immediate enforcement action, but would set the stage for a transfer of custody absent a court injunction.

Discussions between INS and lawyers for the great-uncle were held Wednesday and Thursday, and will resume on Monday morning. INS has extended until next Tuesday

morning, April 4, its deadline for a positive response from the Miami relatives.

Should Elian's father come to the United States, the agreement INS is currently

seeking with the Miami relatives would not prejudice INS efforts to transfer

custody to the father pending the outcome of the appeal. Indeed, since the

announcement that the father plans to travel to the United States, the talks have

focussed on a plan for transfer of custody if the father arrives.

Guidance: We are making the following points:

On the father's request for a visa: As the Departments of State and Justice have

indicated, the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter. The Department of State has indicated that

it will process properly filed visa applications for the four immediate family

members expeditiously, per established guidelines.

On Castro's request to have additional Cubans accompany the father:

Any other

visa requests would be considered by the Department of State in accordance with

appropriate regulations and guidelines.

2

2

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 2237

CONFIDENTIAL cc: Vice President

Reason: 1.5(d) Chief of Staff

Declassify On: 3-30-10

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 2237JSMemo.doc

March 31, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES STEINBERG

FROM: ERIC SCHWARTZ/DAN FELDMAN

SUBJECT: Update on Elian Gonzalez case

Attached is a memorandum on the subject issue.

Concurrences by: Caryn Hollis, Mary DeRosa

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

Attachment
Tab I Memorandum to the President

1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 2237

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: Eric Schwartz

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 3-31-00

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/04/2000 2:36:59 PM
FROM Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: draft update on Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

See my comment included. Have a call to Charles to find out about Newcomb, but believe he will issue the waiver. caryn

-----Original

Message-----

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, April
04, 2000 2:00 PM
To: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Subject: RE: draft
update on Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

does this mean you have no comments?

-----Original

Message-----

From: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Sent: Tuesday,
April 04, 2000 1:47 PM
To: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Baker, James
E. (LEGAL)
Cc: @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: FW:
draft update on Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 12:54 PM
To: Hollis,
Caryn C. (INTERAM); Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;

@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs

Subject: draft update on Elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

Caryn
and Jamie -- please review and comment asap. thanks -- WLP

Please
pass to Sandy and Jim. cc: Mara. thanks.

From Wendy Patten
Cleared
by Interam and Legal

Elian Gonzalez's father may be traveling
to the United States tomorrow morning.

State has spoken with
Vivian Manerud, who indicated that she is taking steps to organize
a charter flight that would bring Greg Craig, Joan Brown Campbell
of the National Council of Churches, and a third person to Havana
tonight. The plane, which seats eight, would return tomorrow morning
with Juan Miguel Gonzalez and the five others who have been granted
visas. The plane would arrive at Dulles Airport at 11:00am.

In
order for the plane to land in Washington, the Office of Foreign
Assets Control at Treasury would need to waive its restrictions that
permit flights from Cuba to land only in Miami, Los Angeles, and
New York. State sees no problem with granting/recommending such
a waiver.

(CARYN - DO WE KNOW WHAT NEWCOMB THINKS? JAMIE -- ARE
WE CHARACTERIZING THE WAIVER PROCESS CORRECTLY? IS IT
OFAC'S TO
WAIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE? IF NOT, WHAT IS STATE'S
ROLE?)

OFAC makes decisions with foreign policy recommendation from State.
Charles Shapiro is talking Newcomb and telling him that the interagency
wants him to issue the waiver. No
feedback yet.

This information
is not yet confirmed, and State does not know whether these plans
have been discussed with the Government of Cuba.

We will provide
further updates as soon possible, both on the travel plans for the
six and where they plan to stay while here.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/04/2000 2:43:54 PM

FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Crocker, Bathsheba N. (NSA)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)
Moretz, Sheila K. (NSA)
NSA Email
Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Sutphen, Mona K. (NSA)

CARBON_COPY Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McLean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)

TEXT_BODY

Please pass to Sandy and Jim. cc: Mara. thanks.

From Wendy Patten
through Eric Schwartz
Cleared by Interam and Legal

Elian Gonzalez's
father may be traveling to the United States tomorrow morning.

State
has spoken with Vivian Manerud, who indicated that she is taking steps to organize a charter flight that would bring Greg Craig, Joan Brown Campbell of the National Council of Churches, and a third person to Havana tonight. The plane, which seats eight, would return tomorrow morning with Juan Miguel Gonzalez and the five others who have been granted visas. The plane would arrive at Dulles Airport at 11:00am. Such a flight plan would require OFAC approval, as OFAC's general licenses for charter flights from Cuba apply only to Miami, Los Angeles, and New York. State sees no problem with this approach and will recommend that OFAC approve such a request.

This information is
not yet confirmed, and State does not know whether these plans have been discussed with the Government of Cuba.

This proposed travel
is consistent with our belief that the family's coming to the U.S. will contribute to resolution of this case. (In any event, we would be hard pressed not to grant visas and facilitate the travel of the father of an unaccompanied minor in the United States.)

We will
provide further updates as soon possible, both on the travel plans for the six and where they plan to stay while here.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/05/2000 10:40:28 AM
FROM Orfini, Michael H. (VP)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT CUBAN BOY [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Beardsley, Tyler S. (VP)
Gobush, Matthew N. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY Saunders, Richard M. (VP)

TEXT_BODY latest

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

CubanboyPG35___.doc
CUBAN BOY
April 5, 2000

CONTEXT: Yesterday, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana issued visas to Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his wife and child, Elian's 10 year-old cousin, and a pediatrician and teacher. The request for visas for 22 other people remains pending. Sunday, April 2, in televised remarks in Havana, Fidel Castro indicated that Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, was prepared to come to the U.S. on his own to retrieve his son, provided that he could return with him immediately to Cuba. Alternatively, a group of 27 people would accompany Elian's father in order to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. This group would include not only Elian's four family members, but also 12 of his classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a special adviser. Yesterday, Cuban officials reiterated privately to U.S. officials that these are the only two options under which Elian's father would travel to the United States. Late last night, Cuban officials informed

the State
Department that they would be willing to reduce the number of visas
requested
from 22 to 18, eliminating four psychologists. Juan Gonzalez's
attorney, Greg
Craig, traveled to Cuba last night, but we have no indication as to
when Mr.
Gonzalez and the five others may come to the U.S..

The question of assurances regarding the boy's transfer to his father
remains at
issue. Last week, Castro appeared to stipulate that, before leaving
Cuba, the
father would need assurance that U.S. authorities would grant the
father custody
in the U.S., presumably for the duration of the court process. Greg
Craig has
confirmed that the father was willing to come to the U.S. as soon as he
had
assurances from INS that he would have custody of Elian for the
duration of the
court proceedings. INS has informed Craig that if Mr. Gonzalez
comes, they will
begin a process of transferring parole custody to him.

Discussions will continue tomorrow morning between INS and the
boy's Miami
relatives. On April 3, INS issued a statement, indicating that the
scheduled
revocation of parole on April 4 had been superseded by the expected
arrival of
Elian's father in the U.S. and that once he arrives, INS will begin the
process
of transferring parole care of Elian from his great uncle to his father.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision two
weeks
ago, in which a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the great
uncle of
Elian Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case.
The great
uncle subsequently asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th
Circuit to
expedite an appeal of this decision, and the appellate court set an
expedited
hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held
by May 8.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses
of

Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on the child would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a Florida state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle against the boy's father in Cuba. On March 30, the Vice President broke with the Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family. He further indicated that he believes a domestic relations court should decide this matter.

What is your reaction to Elian's father's impending travel to the U.S.?

* As the Departments of State and Justice have indicated, we believe that the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter.

* On Monday night, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana approved visa applications for Elian's father, stepmother, half-brother, and cousin, as well as a pediatrician and teacher. These visas were issued yesterday.

* The remaining 22 visa requests are pending.

* I would direct you to the State Department for any further information regarding the visa requests.

When will the father travel?

* We do not know when he plans to travel.

What is your reaction to Castro's request to have many additional Cubans accompany Elian's father?

* These visa requests will be considered by the State Department in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines.

If Asked Only: Was a visa specifically requested for Ricardo Alarcon,

and if so,
will it be issued?

* We refer all questions about particular visa requests to the State Department.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statements urging Congress to immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family members?

* We refer all questions regarding the Vice President's statement to his office.

* The President has said that he hopes the challenge to the INS decision will be resolved in court, not in the Congress, and he opposes this legislation.

* The President has not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but he would not rule out such an option. Will the Department of Justice move forward with the termination of Elian's parole if the family does not commit to comply with the instructions of the INS concerning the transfer of Elian if the government prevails on appeal?

* The issue of Elian's temporary parole status and its potential termination is a legal matter for the Justice Department and the INS to handle. We refer all other questions to them for more information.

* As the Attorney General has stated, the Justice Department is committed to reuniting Elian with his father in an orderly, fair, and prompt manner.

What is your reaction to the Miami relatives' decision to appeal the district court's decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals?

* This matter is in the hands of the INS and the Department of Justice. We refer you to them for more information.

What's your reaction to the federal judge's decision, dismissing the

lawsuit
filed by Elian's Miami relatives?

* We are pleased with that decision. It affirms the INS' judgment that
this
child should be reunited with his father.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support
it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority
to speak
on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr.
Gonzalez
has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they
handled
this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and
want to
see it carried out.

Does the White House support the Attorney General's and Elian's
father's view
that the Florida state court does not have jurisdiction over the boy?

* As we have said before, this matter is appropriately in the hands of
the INS
and the Department of Justice.

Do you have any reaction to Cuban President Fidel Castro's
allegations that the
Miami relatives might remove Elian to a third country, infect him with
a
contagious disease or even kill him?

* These allegations are outrageous.

4

4

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 9:37:14 AM
FROM Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: draft Elian guidance -- DUE BY 10AM [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY Additional questions, for Lockhart and for POTUS.

For Lockhart:

Does the White House's role change now that Elian's father is here in Washington? Do you think this is a positive step?

He seems

to have come here without any specific assurance that there will be a turnover. What is the process now if the Miami family does not do this voluntarily?

For POTUS: Now that the father is here,

Mr. President, do you think it's time for the Miami family to turn him over? If the Miami family does not turn him over voluntarily and you have to go back to court for some kind of order forcing a turnover, are you afraid that there might be violence in Miami if some confrontation becomes necessary?

PJ

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

From: Patten,

Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 9:28 AM

To: Hollis,

Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @LEGAL - Legal

Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @INTERAM - Inter-American;

@MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: draft Elian guidance -- DUE BY 10AM [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG36.doc >>

Please review and comment ASAP.

thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 10:17:21 AM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: revised elian guidance for urgent clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY Just waiting for clearance from Mary in legal and we are good to

go. I am revising for POTUS right now.

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

From: Crowley,
Philip J. (PRESS)
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 10:11 AM
To: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI); Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B.
(LEGAL)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT
- Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian
Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs
Subject: RE: revised elian guidance
for urgent clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]

Wendy, this works well for
Joe.

PJ

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

From: Patten, Wendy L.
(MULTI)
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 10:04 AM
To: Hollis, Caryn
C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT
- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs
Subject: revised
elian guidance for urgent clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG36.doc
>>

Revised to take account of PJ's questions for Joe. Please
review asap. thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 10:44:46 AM
FROM Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Elian guidance for POTUS interview [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)

CARBON_COPY Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY I cut out the question on diplomatic status of the residence. I don't think he would be asked that. Look at the change on the question regarding the pending visas. I would like to see the President say that we will base our decision on the merits and our national interest. I think it's better than just kicking it to State. He should assert a national interest here.

PJ

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 10:37 AM
To: Hollis,
Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs;
@MULTILAT
- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs
Subject: Elian
guidance for POTUS interview [UNCLASSIFIED]

For clearance.
Contains numerous differences from guidance for Joe. thanks --
WLP

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT CubanboyPGPOTUS4-6.doc
CUBAN BOY
April 6, 2000

CONTEXT: Juan Miguel Gonzalez, Elian's father, arrived at Dulles International Airport in Washington this morning, accompanied by his wife and infant son. Elian's 10 year-old cousin, a pediatrician, and a teacher, who were also issued visas, did not make the trip. The request for visas for 22 other people remains pending. Mr. Gonzalez gave a statement, in which he expressed frustration over delays in resolving this case. He indicated his wish to be reunited with his son immediately and suggested he would be willing to remain in the U.S. with his son until the conclusion of the appeals process, but reiterated his desire to bring others from Cuba, including Elian's schoolmates and psychologists, to join them in awaiting the resolution of the legal proceedings. Following his remarks, Mr. Gonzalez and his family were taken to the Bethesda home of the head of the Cuban Interests Section. Separately, negotiations between Elian's Miami relatives and the INS resumed in Miami at 9:30 this morning.

Sunday, April 2, in televised remarks in Havana, Fidel Castro indicated that Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, was prepared to come to the U.S. on his own to retrieve his son, provided that he could return with him immediately to Cuba. Alternatively, a group of 27 people would accompany Elian's father in

order to
await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. This group
would include
not only Elian's four family members, but also 12 of his classmates,
two of
Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a
special
adviser. Yesterday, Cuban officials reiterated privately to U.S.
officials that
these are the only two options under which Elian's father would travel
to the
United States. Late last night, Cuban officials informed the State
Department
that they would be willing to reduce the number of visas requested
from 22 to 18,
eliminating four psychologists.

Discussions are continuing this morning between INS and the boy's
Miami
relatives. On April 3, INS issued a statement, indicating that the
scheduled
revocation of parole on April 4 had been superseded by the expected
arrival of
Elian's father in the U.S. and that once he arrives, INS will begin the
process
of transferring parole care of Elian from his great uncle to his father.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision two
weeks
ago, in which a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the great
uncle of
Elian Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case.
The great
uncle subsequently asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th
Circuit to
expedite an appeal of this decision, and the appellate court set an
expedited
hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held
by May 8.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses
of
Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on
the child
would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a
Florida
state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle
against the
boy's father in Cuba. On March 30, the Vice President broke with the
Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting

permanent
resident status to Elian and his immediate family. He further indicated
that he
believes a domestic relations court should decide this matter.

What is your reaction to Elian's father's arrival in the U.S.? Do you
think this
is a positive step?

* I am pleased that Mr. Gonzalez has arrived. I believe that the
father's coming
to the United States will help to move this process forward and will
contribute
to a successful resolution of this matter.

Now that the father is here, do you think it is time for the Miami
relatives to
hand over the boy to his father?

* This child lost his mother under tragic circumstances. He needs to
be with his
father -- his sole surviving parent -- and his father is now here and
wants to be
reunited with him.

* As the Justice Department has said, they are committed to doing all
they can in
the coming days to reunite Elian with his father in an orderly and fair
manner.

Mr. Gonzalez seems to have come here without any specific
assurances that the
child will be transferred to him. What is the process now if the Miami
relatives
do not voluntarily hand over the child?

* The Justice Department is meeting again this morning with Elian's
relatives in
Miami, in an effort to ensure that everyone will cooperate in a smooth
and
orderly reunification of this child with his father.

* As the Deputy Attorney General said this morning, we are hopeful
that Elian can
be reunited with his father in a way that causes the least harm and
least
disruption for the boy.

[If asked] Will INS move to transfer parole custody of the boy immediately?

* The issue of Elian's temporary parole status and its transfer to the father is a legal matter for the Justice Department and INS to handle.

Are you concerned that if the family does not turn him over voluntarily, and a court order must be executed to effectuate the transfer, there might be violence in Miami?

* I understand that for many this is an emotional issue, but it is our hope that the Miami community will remain peaceful and respect the law and legal decisions made in this case.

Does the White House's role change now that Elian's father is here in Washington?

* The Justice Department and State Department continue to play their respective leading roles in this matter. Of course, we continue to be in close touch with Justice and State on this important issue.

What is your reaction to Castro's request to have many additional Cubans accompany Elian's father?

* Visas were also issued to Elian's 10-year-old cousin, a pediatrician, and a schoolteacher. They may travel at any time.

* The remaining 22 visa requests are pending. The State Department will make an evaluation of these visas based on the merits of these requests and consistent with our national interest.

If Asked Only: Was a visa specifically requested for Ricardo Alarcon, and if so, will it be issued?

* As I said, the other visa requests are pending and the State Department will review them under their normal guidelines and procedures.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statements urging Congress to immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family members?

* As I have said, I hope the challenge to the INS decision will be resolved in court, not in the Congress, and I oppose this legislation.

* I have not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but I would not rule it out.

What's your reaction to the federal judge's decision, dismissing the lawsuit filed by Elian's Miami relatives?

* I'm pleased with that decision. It affirms the INS' judgment that this child should be reunited with his father.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority to speak on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr. Gonzalez has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they handled this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and want to see it carried out.

Does the White House support the Attorney General's and Elian's

father's view
that the Florida state court does not have jurisdiction over the boy?

* As I have said before, this matter is appropriately in the hands of the
INS and
the Department of Justice.

Do you have any reaction to Cuban President Fidel Castro's
allegations that the
Miami relatives might remove Elian to a third country, infect him with
a
contagious disease or even kill him?

* These allegations are outrageous.

4

3

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 11:09:54 AM
FROM Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: Elian guidance for POTUS interview [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

PJ, Multi/Wendy Patten has the lead on Elian. We do the Cuba angle and coordinate. I will forward this and subsequent to Wendy. Caryn

-----Original

Message-----

From: Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)

Sent: Thursday,

April 06, 2000 10:45 AM

To: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL -
Legal Advisor

Cc: @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: FW: Elian guidance
for POTUS interview [UNCLASSIFIED]

I cut out the question on diplomatic status of the residence. I don't think he would be asked that. Look at the change on the question regarding the pending visas. I would like to see the President say that we will base our decision on the merits and our national interest. I think it's better than just kicking it to State. He should assert a national interest here.

PJ

-----Original

Message-----

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Thursday, April

06, 2000 10:37 AM

To: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary
B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor;
@LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and
Humanitarian

Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: Elian guidance for POTUS

interview [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPGPOTUS4-6.doc >>

For
clearance. Contains numerous differences from guidance for Joe.
thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 6:08:07 PM
FROM Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: update on elian [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

Some suggested edits.

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

From: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 5:53 PM
To: Hollis,
Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;
@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian
Affairs
Subject: update on elian [UNCLASSIFIED]

please review
and comment. gracias

Please pass to Jim. cc: Mara. Thanks.

Cleared
by Legal and Interam

Jim,

The 4:45 conference call focused
on the issue of security at the Bethesda residence where Elian's
father is staying.

Apparently, two busloads of Cuban Americans
are on their way from New Jersey to Bethesda to demonstrate at the
residence. The Montgomery County police are asking for help.

At

present, Diplomatic Security/Secret Service is returning to the house, based on State/Legal's view that the withdrawal of diplomatic inviolability will not take effect until we receive a properly drafted dip note. The Cubans are quickly preparing such a note. Once we receive the dip note, Diplomatic Security/Secret Service will not be able to provide assistance at the home.

Cuban Interests Section requested that Juan Gonzalez and the residence be afforded security.

Justice, and State will work off line to examine the authorities of all federal law enforcement agencies and determine immediately what assistance, if any, can be provided.

Justice, INS, DS, and Montgomery County police will meet to draw up a response plan.

We will reconvene later this evening (time TBD) for a briefing on the just-concluded negotiations between the Miami relatives and Justice/INS. The Miami relatives vehemently criticized the USG as they emerged from the negotiations.

Wendy

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/06/2000 6:14:47 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: CNN reporting Jackson-Lee to meet with Elian's dad [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY I heard rumors (not necessarily reliable) that some FL Cuban-Am reps might want to meet with him, presumably to persuade him to defect....

-----Original

Message-----

From: Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)

Sent: Thursday,

April 06, 2000 6:12 PM

To: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Subject: RE:

CNN reporting Jackson-Lee to meet with Elian's dad [UNCLASSIFIED]

Just

saw the same report -- first I had heard, and I spoke to her staff today! Very likely that others will want to meet with him. Great coverage.

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

From: Patten, Wendy L.

(MULTI)

Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 6:07 PM

To: Shapiro, Daniel

B. (LEGIS)

Subject: CNN reporting Jackson-Lee to meet with Elian's dad [UNCLASSIFIED]

said she is going to Bethesda tonight. Had you heard anything? Think we'll see more members wanting to meet with him?

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/10/2000 10:25:15 AM
FROM Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: updated Elian guidance for clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McLean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY Wendy, you might want to add an IF ASKED Q&A about the silliness

in Bob Novak's piece in the Post today.

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

From: Patten,

Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Monday, April 10, 2000 10:21 AM

To: Hollis,

Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;

@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT

- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: updated

Elian guidance for clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG38.doc

>>

Please review and comment. thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/10/2000 10:43:09 AM
FROM Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: updated Elian guidance for clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY Wendy, do you want to say the visa requests are "pending," I thought the language agreed to was "under review."

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

From: Patten,

Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Monday, April 10, 2000 10:21 AM

To: Hollis,

Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American;

@LEGAL - Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT

- Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: updated

Elian guidance for clearance [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG38.doc

>>

Please review and comment. thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/13/2000 10:09:28 AM

FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT updated Elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)

CARBON_COPY Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Anderson, Brooke D. (NSCCOMM)
Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Hammer, Michael A. (PRESS)
Hoelzer, Jennifer I. (PRESS/INTERN)
Leklem, Erik J. (NSCCOMM/PRESS/INTERN)
Stockwell, David B. (PRESS)
Wozniak, Natalie S. (PRESS)

TEXT_BODY

Please send any changes directly to @press.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

CubanboyPG40.doc
CUBAN BOY
April 13, 2000

CONTEXT: The Justice Department sent a letter last night to Elian's Miami relatives, instructing them to bring the boy to Miami's Opa-Locka airport at 2:00 p.m. today. The letter acknowledges the family's request for a meeting with Juan Miguel Gonzalez, the boy's father, and invites them to accompany Elian on the flight to Washington to meet with Mr. Gonzalez. The letter makes clear, however, that the parole custody and care of the boy will be transferred to Mr. Gonzalez, who has been in Washington since April 6. If the Miami relatives choose not to meet with the boy's father as proposed, they must nonetheless deliver the boy to Opa-Locka airport at 2:00 p.m., at which time the boy will be flown to Washington to be reunited with his father. Justice continues to urge the family to ensure that Elian's transition to his father's care is as peaceful and nonconflictual as possible.

On April 9, Mr. Gonzalez he met with a team of psychiatrists and a psychologist who are advising the INS on how to accomplish the transfer with minimal disruption for the child. The team met on April 10 with Elian's relatives in Miami.

Visa requests remain under review for a group of 22 Cubans, whom Castro would like to join Elian's father in order to await the outcome of the legal process. This group would include 12 of the boy's classmates, a school teacher, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors, and a special adviser. Elian's 10 year-old cousin, a pediatrician, and a teacher have been issued visas, but did not make the trip with Mr. Gonzalez.

The catalyst for these events was a federal district court decision

dismissing a lawsuit filed by Elian's great uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, in which he challenged the INS decision in this case. The great uncle subsequently appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which set an expedited hearing schedule, with briefing to be completed and arguments held by May 11. The Miami relatives filed their brief yesterday. Separately, in the state court custody case, the judge asked the parties to file briefs addressing questions of her jurisdiction over the matter and of federal preemption of the state court claim.

Legislation to confer citizenship on the boy is pending in both houses of Congress. Action by Congress to confer citizenship or residency on the child would effectively divest INS of jurisdiction over the matter, leaving a Florida state court to resolve a custody case filed by the boy's great uncle against the boy's father in Cuba. On March 30, the Vice President broke with the Administration, and endorsed Congressional legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his immediate family. He further indicated that he believes a domestic relations court should decide this matter.

Do you think the Miami relatives will turn the boy over voluntarily?

* The relatives have said consistently that they will abide by the law. I hope and expect that they will keep their word and comply with INS instructions.

* I urge the family to allow this transition to be peaceful so that it causes the least disruption to this boy as possible. I believe the relatives in Miami care deeply for this child, and we're hopeful they will do everything they can to make this transition as smooth as possible for Elian.

This morning, the relatives seemed defiant and that they were planning to force

the government to come to Little Havana and forcibly remove the child. Are you going to give Justice permission to send in the U.S. Marshals if they refuse to hand the boy over?

* As the Attorney General has said, the Justice Department will enforce its order fairly and promptly, and I support her.

Are you concerned that if the family does not turn him over voluntarily, and a court order must be executed to effectuate the transfer, there might be violence in Miami?

* I understand that for many this is an emotional issue, but I believe that the Miami community will remain peaceful and respect the law and legal decisions made in this case.

Do you think the father really wants to return to Cuba, or is he unable or unwilling to speak freely?

* Under our law, the father is free to apply for asylum if he wishes. It's my understanding that he has said clearly that he wants to return to his country.

* He has had numerous meetings alone with his attorney and also met with the Attorney General and INS Commissioner without any Cuban officials present.

Do you think Juan Miguel Gonzalez will return to Cuba immediately after he gets custody of the boy? Can you prevent him from returning right away?

* I don't know what the father's plans are, but I hope that once the boy is reunited with his father, that this family will find a way to come together.

Why did you wait so long to act? In retrospect, do you think you

should have
taken steps earlier to resolve this case?

* We have tried to make this process as nondisruptive for the child as possible.
Justice has followed a very deliberate and careful process because of what the
boy went through. It is now in power Lazaro Gonzalez and his family to make
process peaceful for Elian, and I urge them to do so.

Does the White House's role change now that Elian's father is here in Washington?

* The Justice Department and State Department continue to play their respective
leading roles in this matter. Of course, we continue to be in close touch with
Justice and State on this important issue.
[ONLY IF ASKED] How do you respond to allegations that you are using this case
as a tool to improve relations with Cuba?

* Our only objective is to see that the INS decision in this case is carried out
in accordance with the law.

Any comment regarding the Vice President's statements urging Congress to
immediately pass legislation granting permanent resident status to Elian and his
immediate family members?

* We refer all questions regarding the Vice President's statement to his office.

* The President has said that he hopes the challenge to the INS decision will be
resolved in court, not in the Congress, and he opposes this legislation.

* The President has not yet made a decision on a veto for this legislation, but
he would not rule out such an option.

What is the INS decision in the Elian Gonzalez case? Do you support it?

* INS determined that Elian's father, Juan Gonzalez, has sole authority to speak on his son's behalf regarding his immigration status in this case. Mr. Gonzalez has asked that his son be returned to Cuba.

* INS very carefully assessed the law and the facts. We believe they handled this case in the appropriate manner, and we support their decision and want to see it carried out.

4

3

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/13/2000 10:34:31 AM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: updated Elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

sorry we couldn't nail things down better. As I told Hammer, discussions are happening at a higher level, so it's been very difficult to get the latest. Just heard on CNN that AG and Doris doing press conference at 11:45. Justice Press says it's noon and it's tentative. I've asked for a copy of their guidance if and when they get it set.

-----Original

Message-----

From: Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)

Sent: Thursday,

April 13, 2000 10:19 AM

To: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Subject: RE:

updated Elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Wendy.

PJ

-----Original

Message-----

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Thursday, April

13, 2000 10:09 AM

To: @INTERAM - Inter-American

Cc: @LEGAL - Legal

Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: updated

Elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG40.doc >>

Please

send any changes directly to @press.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/13/2000 1:48:08 PM

FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT update on Elian Gonzalez [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Crocker, Bathsheba N. (NSA)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)
Moretz, Sheila K. (NSA)
NSA Email
Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Sutphen, Mona K. (NSA)

CARBON_COPY Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)
Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Burrell, Christina L. (LEGIS)
Lackey, Miles M. (LEGIS)
Shapiro, Daniel B. (LEGIS)
Tavlarides, Mark J. (LEGIS)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
Kale, Dora A. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)

TEXT_BODY

please pass to Jim, cc: Mara.

Jim,

Miami Dade-County Judge

Jennifer Bailey has dismissed the custody case filed by Lazaro Gonzalez. She found both that the case is federally pre-empted and that she lacks subject matter jurisdiction. We have a copy of the decision if you are interested.

Wendy

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/13/2000 5:27:09 PM

FROM DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Update on Elian Gonzalez case [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Bash, Brooks L. (EXSEC)
Bradtke, Robert A. (EXSEC)
Crocker, Bathsheba N. (NSA)
Gray, Wendy E. (NSA)
Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)
Kale, Dora A. (NSA)
Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC)
Moretz, Sheila K. (NSA)
NSA Email
Rudman, Mara E. (NSA)
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Siberell, Justin H. (NSA)
Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Sutphen, Mona K. (NSA)

CARBON_COPY Allen, Charles A. (LEGAL)
Baker, James E. (LEGAL)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Hunerwadel, Joan S. (LEGAL)
Krass, Caroline D. (LEGAL)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
McClean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)
Avery, Dale R. (INTERAM)
Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR)
Shannon, Thomas A. (INTERAM)
Snowden, Deniz (INTERAM)
Valenzuela, Arturo A. (INTERAM)

TEXT_BODY

Please pass to Jim

There have been a few developments this afternoon:

* As

you know, the state court dismissed the Miami family's petition for temporary custody.

* The Miami relatives have asked the 11th

Circuit court of appeals for an injunction. Although we have not seen the papers yet, Justice reports that the relatives have asked the court to (1) prevent removal of Elian from the United States, and (2) prevent transfer of Elian to the Cuban government or "any person controlled by the Cuban government."

* The 11th Circuit

asked the Justice Department to refrain from any enforcement action until the court can consider the petition, and Justice agreed. Justice is filing responsive papers today or early tomorrow. They believe the Court could issue a decision as early as tomorrow.

* At 3:00

PM, a single judge on the 11th Circuit (Judge Edmondson) issued a temporary injunction -- valid only until a three judge panel has the opportunity to review the relatives' petition -- that prevents Elian's removal from the country, prevents all persons acting for Elian from aiding or assisting his removal from the United States, and orders DOJ to take lawful and reasonable precautions to prevent his removal from the United States.

* Note that an order preventing

Elian's removal from the country would not necessarily prevent transfer of Elian to his father in the United States, although Justice would have to take the necessary precautions to prevent his removal.

* Greg

Craig, in a public statement, pointed out that, despite claiming for months that he would not break the law, Lazaro Gonzalez has now broken the law. He said now that the state court order has been dismissed and parole has been revoked, Lazaro and the others who keep Elian from his father are holding Elian in violation of the law. He pleaded with the Justice Department to enforce the law.

* Earlier today, the AG said publicly that any enforcement action would be "reasonable and measured." She did not give any more detail.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/14/2000 1:09:27 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RE: updated elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM)
DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

gracias chica -- maria??? que piensas?

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

From: Hollis,
Caryn C. (INTERAM)
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2000 12:59 PM
To: Patten,
Wendy L. (MULTI); DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)
Subject: RE: updated
elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

If you have to answer on the univision
tape, it should be to have no comment. What has come out about the
9:30 ? Any public word on the departure control order? I'd defer
to DOJ on that one. c
Interam clears. Good work Wendy!

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

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
Sent: Friday, April
14, 2000 12:29 PM
To: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM); DeRosa, Mary
B. (LEGAL)
Subject: FW: updated elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

did
either of you two brilliant women have any comments? I'd like to
forward to Mike Orfini but want to make sure there are no problems.

Also,
mary -- do you think Jim is aware of events or in need of an update?
eric thought I should call him, but wanted to get your sense first.

thanks
-- WLP

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

From: Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2000 11:08 AM

To: Hollis, Caryn C. (INTERAM);

DeRosa, Mary B. (LEGAL)

Cc: @INTERAM - Inter-American; @LEGAL -

Legal Advisor; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; @MULTILAT - Multilateral
and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS - Public Affairs

Subject: updated

elian guidance [UNCLASSIFIED]

<< File: CubanboyPG41.doc >>

Mary
and Caryn, please review and comment. I think I've got all the myriad
pieces of the action in here, but please feel free to add. Any thoughts
on whether to address departure control order, and if so, what to
say? Also, the Univision videotape??

thanks -- WLP

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 04/17/2000 3:28:22 PM
FROM Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATIONREASON 1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON 04/03/2000
DECLASSIFYON 04/04/2010
SUBJECT FW: Pkg 2237 -- Update on Elian Gonzalez Case [CONFIDENTIAL]
TO Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)

CARBON_COPY Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI)
 Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI)
 Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI)
 Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI)
 Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI)
 Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI)
 Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
 Williams, Mary C. (ADMIN)

TEXT_BODY

ES -- this memo, as written, is clearly OBE'd. The question is whether
 an update on current status is warranted. I would argue no, both
 because it too would likely be OBE'd between the time we sent it
 and the time POTUS received it, and because he appears to be
 receiving
 regular updates from Podesta, Beth Nolan, et al.

If you agree,
 I'll email Kay Joshi and ask her to suggest to Jim that we don't
 believe a POTUS memo on the status of Elian is warranted (but of
 course happy to do if Jim wants it, etc.)

thanks -- WLP

-----Original

Message-----

From: Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC)

Sent: Monday, April

03, 2000 11:29 AM

To: @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian
Affairs

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines,

September 11, 2006

By M NARA, Date 9/14/16
2012-03716

Cc: @UP - APNSA Special Assistants; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: Pkg 2237 -- Update on Elian Gonzalez Case
[CONFIDENTIAL]

Jim

Steinberg sent the subject package back with a note: redo/update. Attached is the document. Please update as soon as possible and return via e-mail. Thanks.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 2237POTUSmemo.doc

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Status of Elian Gonzalez Issue

Castro's Announcement: In a televised roundtable discussion from Havana on Wednesday evening, Fidel Castro indicated that the father of Elian Gonzalez, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, was prepared to come to the United States to await the outcome of the legal process involving Elian. In itself, this could be a welcome development; the Justice Department has already indicated that the father's travel to the United States, where he could be close to his son, would facilitate an outcome to this matter.

Castro's offer, however, had several additional elements. Greg Craig, attorney for Juan Gonzalez, told the press Thursday afternoon that before the father travels to the United States, he needs assurances from INS that he will have custody of Elian for the duration of the court proceedings. INS officials inform us that such a custody arrangement would be the normal course of action. Craig

held preliminary discussions on Thursday afternoon with the INS about possible arrangements for the father's travel, and these discussions will continue today.

The other details of Castro's offer are more unusual. Castro proposed that Elian's father be accompanied not only by his wife (Elian's stepmother) and his other child, but also by 12 of Elian's classmates, two of Elian's school teachers, a favorite cousin, a team of doctors (including psychologists), and a legal adviser. State and INS do not believe that such an entourage would be conducive to a successful resolution of this matter, and note that some members of the support group would not qualify for visas under current guidelines.

Visa Requests: Craig delivered a letter to State on Thursday afternoon, requesting visas for Elian's father, stepmother, half brother, and cousin, as well as for National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon. Formal requests for visas may be made at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana today, and the Department of State has said it will give properly filed visa requests for the four family members expedited consideration under established State guidelines. State has not indicated how it will treat a visa request for Alarcon. Craig also told the press that once Juan Gonzalez receives the assurances he seeks from INS regarding custody of Elian, then visa requests for the remaining members of the entourage would be submitted.

Discussions With Family in Florida: INS has proposed holding off any action on return to Cuba for Elian pending the outcome of an expedited appeals process, but has insisted on an agreement with the Miami relatives that, if the family loses the appeal, they will cooperate in an orderly transfer of custody. DOJ and INS believe such a commitment is critical to ensuring some reasonable resolution of

this matter. INS has said it will revoke Elian's current parole status if the great-uncle does not sign such an agreement. According to INS, such revocation would not result in immediate enforcement action, but would set the stage for a transfer of custody absent a court injunction.

Discussions between INS and lawyers for the great-uncle were held Wednesday and Thursday, and will resume on Monday morning. INS has extended until next Tuesday morning, April 4, its deadline for a positive response from the Miami relatives. Should Elian's father come to the United States, the agreement INS is currently seeking with the Miami relatives would not prejudice INS efforts to transfer custody to the father pending the outcome of the appeal. Indeed, since the announcement that the father plans to travel to the United States, the talks have focussed on a plan for transfer of custody if the father arrives.

Guidance: We are making the following points:

On the father's request for a visa: As the Departments of State and Justice have indicated, the father's travel to the United States could contribute to a successful resolution of this matter. The Department of State has indicated that it will process properly filed visa applications for the four immediate family members expeditiously, per established guidelines.

On Castro's request to have additional Cubans accompany the father: Any other visa requests would be considered by the Department of State in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines.

2

2

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 2237

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ cc: Vice President
Reason: 1.5(d) Chief of Staff
Declassify On: 3-30-10

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 2237JSMemo.doc

March 31, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES STEINBERG

FROM: ERIC SCHWARTZ/DAN FELDMAN

SUBJECT: Update on Elian Gonzalez case

Attached is a memorandum on the subject issue.

Concurrences by: Caryn Hollis, Mary DeRosa

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

Attachment
Tab I Memorandum to the President

1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 2237

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Eric Schwartz

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 3-31-00