

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2767				
Document ID: 9909279				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 5	Shelf: 7	Position: 2

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: WATERS, MAXINE

DOC DATE: 23 DEC 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA
CO

IMMIGRATION

PERSONS: GONZALEZ, ELIAN

SUBJECT: REQUEST POTUS EXPEDITE RETURN OF GONZALEZ TO CUBA

ACTION: SEE 9909316 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 08 JAN 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PATTEN

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

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

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSEMK

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9909279

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001	Z	00010515	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 PATTEN	X	00010515	PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001	X	00020509	SEE 9909316 FOR FINAL ACTION
001 HOLLIS	Z	99122813	PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001	Z	99122817	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 BUSBY	Z	99122817	PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

0238

January 28, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ *ES*
FROM: WENDY PATTEN *WP*
SUBJECT: Letter from Members of Congress Urging Prompt
Reunification of Elian Gonzalez with His Father

Attached is a memorandum to the President and proposed response to a letter from 21 members of Congress, led by Maxine Waters, urging your immediate intervention to reunite Elian Gonzalez with his father in Cuba.

The NSC received the incoming correspondence on January 11, 2000.

Concurrences by: Mary DeRosa, Dan Shapiro, Arturo Valenzuela *wa*
email

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Response to Letter on Elian Gonzalez
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

*Make five
and forward.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
CHARLES M. BRAIN

SUBJECT: Letter from Members of Congress Urging Prompt
Reunification of Elian Gonzalez with His Father

Purpose

To respond to a letter signed by 21 members of Congress urging your immediate intervention to reunite Elian Gonzalez with his father in Cuba.

Background

A group of 21 members of Congress, led by Maxine Waters, wrote to applaud the efforts of the National Council of Churches to reunite Elian Gonzalez with his father in Cuba. The writers express their view that this matter should be handled according to the best interests of the child and the father's stated wishes, not politics or the sentiments of anti-Castro Cubans in Florida. They urge you to intervene immediately to prevent any further delay in reuniting this family, as well as additional trauma to the child. Rep. Waters also wrote separately in late December expressing similar concerns.

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

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached response.

Attachment

Tab A Response to Letter on Elian Gonzalez

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Maxine:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Barbara:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: WATERS, MAXINE

DOC DATE: 23 DEC 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CUBA
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IMMIGRATION

PERSONS: GONZALEZ, ELIAN

SUBJECT: REQUEST POTUS EXPEDITE RETURN OF GONZALEZ TO CUBA

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 08 JAN 00 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HOLLIS

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION

HOLLIS

FOR CONCURRENCE

BAKER
BUSBY
LACKEY

FOR INFO

SCHWARTZ
VALENZUELA

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

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DOC 1 OF 1

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Holtis

LOG NUMBER:

9279

DUE DATE:

1.8.00

DATE STAFFED:

12.28.99

Bushy

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

M. WATERS

Please close out under

0738

9316

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.