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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0003906
RECEIVED: 12 JUN 00 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: CARRO, JOSE

DOC DATE: 20 APR 00
SOURCE REF: 418421

KEYWORDS: CUBA HUMAN RIGHTS
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS: GONZALEZ, ELIAN

SUBJECT: CUBAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY IN EXILE URGES POTUS SUPPORT RE GONZALEZ
CASE

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED DUE DATE: 23 JUN 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

HOLLIS
PATTEN
SCHWARTZ
VALENZUELA

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWL

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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0003906

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 PATTEN
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 00061216 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 00081417 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

UNCLASSIFIED

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

FOR ACTION
PATTEN

FOR CONCURRENCE
HOLLIS

FOR INFO
BAKER
SCHWARTZ
VALENZUELA

COMMENTS:

No Further Action Required

DISPATCHED BY

W. Patten

DATE

8-14-00

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWL

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

699043



418421



PLM

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Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile, Inc.
 Sociedad Cubana de Pediatría en el Exilio, Inc.

P.O. Box 558988
 Miami, Florida 33255-8988
 Fax (305) 361-8563

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Miami, Florida
 April 20, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
 President of the United States of America
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Honorable President Clinton:

The members of the Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile have followed very closely the case of Elian Gonzalez as the events unfold. As pediatric professionals and children's advocates, we respectfully ask you and the corresponding authorities to reevaluate all aspects of this unfortunate and tragic situation. As the highest authority in this great nation you have a duty as well as a moral obligation to assure that any biological parental rights do not supersede or violate those of Elian as an individual.

We have issued a public declaration, which we are hereby submitting for your consideration and support. It is unquestionable that the medical and psychiatric criteria of Elian's own treating physicians must be taken into consideration in all future decisions. I would like to reiterate our willingness to assist in mediation for the purpose of family reunification, while assuring that Elian's rights and physical as well as emotional well-being, are guaranteed at all times.

Respectfully yours,

José Carro, M.D.
 7000 S.W. 97th Avenue
 Suite 208
 Miami, Florida 33173
 Ph: (305)273-0808

CC: Ms. Janet Reno, Attorney General
 Ms. Dorothy Meissner, Commissioner of I.N.S.

JUN 12 15:37

B-418421



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José Vargas, M.D.

Miami, Florida

April 17, 2000

Whereas the Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile is a non political, scientific medical organization that has been in existence in the State of Florida for more than 30 years currently with more than 200 members.

Whereas Elian Gonzalez is a six year old Cuban boy who arrived to the US on Thanksgiving Day on November 25th, 1999. Elian was rescued at sea alone, after his mother lost her life in an attempt to seek freedom.

Where as there have been health care professionals from other areas traveling to South Florida and speaking to the media expressing their medical opinions without having obtained a medical history, performed a physical examination nor other proper psychological evaluations of Elian.

Based on the above facts the Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile states the following

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES :

That Elian's rights as a child should be honored and respected under the principles of the "Convention of The Rights of Children" promulgated by the United Nations and supported by Pediatricians around the world.

That every effort should be made to have a family reunion among Elian's father, his wife, Lazaro Gonzalez and other relatives in Miami. This meeting should be held in a neutral place without government, media or outside intervention and without any pre-conditions.

That the Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile offers its knowledge of the Cuban culture and its resources to obtain this goal.

That we denounce and strongly oppose statements made by individuals who have been expressing medical or psychological judgments without following the most basic rules of medical ethics and care.

That in our opinion the legal aspects of this case, if needed, would be better served in a family court which is the indicated forum for cases of this nature; therefore, it is our conviction that Elian Gonzalez is entitled to have "a day in court" as any other human being in the United States of America.

Every free and democratic society assures that everyone's basic and individual rights are honored and respected. Unfortunately children's rights are sometimes overlooked. As children's advocates it is our moral and legal obligation to make sure that individual rights of children are considered. National and world wide organizations support this notion. We feel that Elian Gonzalez's rights should be taken into account before any abrupt decision which could have life long implications, is made.

Unfortunately due to the political and emotional aspects surrounding this case many have rushed to make a judgment and express their opinion without taking all the facts into consideration.

The Cuban Pediatric Society in Exile was founded over 30 years ago. Its membership is composed of general pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and other health care professionals with many years of experience in the field of Pediatrics. South Florida is a community made up of people with many different ethnic origins and backgrounds. For many years we have cared for the children in this community, especially children of Cuban origin. We have also traveled to many places in Latin America and to Guantanamo, Cuba to offer our services to Cuban and Haitian children there during the crisis created by the most recent massive exodus from Cuba. We feel our knowledge and expertise places us in the best position to evaluate this case. We do so in a nonpolitical, objective manner as children advocates that we are.

As it has been suggested by pediatric psychiatrists and psychologists treating Elian since his arrival to the United States, and because of what he went through and witnessed "first hand" he may fit the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This is a condition in which the victims experience tremendous emotional impact on their lives after an overwhelming unexpected trauma. The persistent emotional symptoms that the victims experience become even worse when they are subjected to change or when they feel threatened in any way about their safety.

We understand and respect traditional Cuban family values. We are also well aware of the political situation in Cuba. This is why we insist that a family reunion with Elian's father, his wife and his Miami relatives take place in a neutral environment away from the pressures of governments, media and outsiders with their own hidden political agendas. This should be carried out without any prearranged condition.

Traditionally custody battles are resolved in Family Courts. Due to the political implications of this case, facts and decisions have been manipulated before taking into account all aspects of this unusual and unfortunate situation. Everyone has their right to have his/her day in court. Let's not deny Elian of this right.

Last but not least we urge everyone not to forget Elizabeth Brotons, Elian's mother, who made the ultimate sacrifice to bring her child to what she believed would be a better future. Her cry, along with thousands of others who have lost their lives in the Florida Straights in their attempt to reach freedom, democracy and the pursuit of happiness, should be heard.

Date: 4/21/00

Number of Pages: 4

Voice Number:

Company:

Voice Number: 305-265-8668

Subject:

Comments:

PLM TO DEBBIE JONES, ROOM 75

Please do the following with
the attached letter:

☐ Send to Agency Liaison for
appropriate action

☐ Send to Agency Liaison for
direct routing (no cover
letter) to:

☐ Send to Agency Liaison for
Jim Dorskind cover letter
and routing to:

☒ Other: Please forward
to Vicki Darnes, NSC,
379 OEB, for handling.

Name: Renee Sagiv

Phone: 45519

PLM TO DEBBIE JONES, ROOM 75

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appropriate action
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- ☐ Send to Agency Liaison for
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- ☒ Other: Please forward
to Vicki Darnes, NSC,
379 OEB, for handling.

Name: Renée Sagiv

Phone: 45519

**THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

ID# 418421
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 06/08/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. JOSE CARRO M.D.

SUBJECT: REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO REEVALUATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE TRAGIC SITUATION
CONCERNING THE CASE OF ELIAN GONZALEZ AS THE EVENTS UNFOLD

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
CORRESPONDENCE	JOHN WERTMAN	ORG	2000/06/08		C	2000/06/08

ACTION COMMENTS

NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL

RSA 2000/06/08

ACTION COMMENTS ATTN: VICKI DARNES, RM. 379-OEOB

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: FAX

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

JUN 12 15:37

ACTION CODES:

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

DISPOSITION CODES:

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

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Ratten

LOG NUMBER:

3906

DUE DATE:

23 Jun

DATE STAFFED:

12 Jun

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Carro

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.