

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Chief of Staff
Series/Staff Member: Maria Echaveste; Marjorie Tarmey
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 16803
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Elian Letters

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	23	6	4	3

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0904

Response?

March 30, 2000

cc: Maria E.
Beth Nolan

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request that you take action immediately in the Elian Gonzalez case by directing the Attorney General to extend Elian's parole until all legal proceedings are completed in federal and state court, including appeals. In the past week, unrealistic demands have been placed on the family of Elian to expedite the appeal of the federal district court decision. The Department of Justice has repeatedly threatened to revoke Elian's parole within 24 hours and remove the child to Cuba if the family fails to agree to their unfair and unjust demands. The Justice Department's daily threat to revoke Elian's legal permission to remain in this country is an outrageous tactic. It is a scheme to short-circuit a judicial process in which even the most heinous of criminals are given the right to appeal. I am calling on you to stop the Justice Department's harassment of this family. Allowing the process to run full course will go a long way to diffuse the tense situation that presently exists in Miami. The United States is a country that applies justice in a fair manner to all - do not deny this young boy.

Sincerely,

Connie Mack
United States Senator

Daniel W. Burkhardt

  04/03/2000 10:12:30 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Robert C. Houser/WHO/EOP@EOP, Gertrude A. Roddick/WHO/EOP@EOP, Debra D. Alexander/WHO/EOP@EOP, Helen S. Castleman/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP, Janice H. Vranich/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Elian Gonzalez letters

how are we handling these?

jan -- can you track down the mack letter in particular?

----- Forwarded by Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP on 04/03/2000 10:11 AM -----



Marjorie Tarmey

04/03/2000 10:00:26 AM

.....

Record Type: Record

To: Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Elian Gonzalez letters

Is there a response letter re Elian Gonzalez? Maria asked specifically about a letter from Senator Mack.
What about letters from the general public?

copy of 12/93
incoming &
outgoing
replied prepared
by NSC) —

Jan

— 4/3

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COPY

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Mack:

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.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision 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 to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

The Honorable Connie Mack
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0904

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Mr. Leader:

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.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision 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 to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Craig:

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.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision 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 to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1203

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Coverdell:

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.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision 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 to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1004

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 2000

Dear Senator Nickles:

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.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced on January 5 its decision 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 to carry out the INS decision, which is under challenge in federal court.

Throughout this process, I have been committed to ensuring that this decision is made according to governing law and procedures, not politics. I believe the proper resolution of the challenge to the INS decision is in court, not through legislation.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Don Nickles
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3602

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 1999

COPY

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The world knows the story of a mother who gave her life to protect her child and give him freedom. Along with his stepfather and several other people, she joined her young son in a small boat and entered dangerous waters. In all, this young six-year-old boy's story of how he arrived on our shores for freedom is a story for the ages. It is a story of the steps people will take to find and secure freedom.

Throughout our long history, people throughout the world have found freedom on our shores. Countless people through the years have fled the brutality of communism. In this young boy, Elian Gonzalez, hanging on to an inner-tube for his life is indeed a miracle. It should be recognized as such.

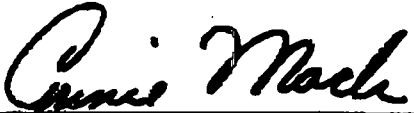
Therefore, when the Congress returns from the current recess, we intend to move to consider a measure granting United States citizenship to Elian Gonzalez.

Mr. President, there has been much too much debate; we should make this simple. Elian's mother, Elizabeth Rodriguez, gave her life so that her son would have the full protection of America's freedom. We undertake this initiative in honor of his mother and in recognition of the danger the boy faces. We in the Senate understand this young man has a right to freedom.

There is talk that the INS will simply send Elian back to the clutches of Castro's communist dictatorship. To return him without American citizenship would be a tragedy and a travesty. To ensure he gets a fair hearing in court by people who treasure liberty and honor and respect the rule of law, we hope the United States will bestow citizenship on him. At this point, Elian's future should be decided by his family and the courts. But later in life as an American citizen, he will have the freedom to choose where he wishes to live. His future will no longer be a political decision, but a decision based upon the best interests of the child. By confirming citizenship, we will be preserving the father's rights to see and be with his son. But most importantly, we will be preserving the boy's rights to live in freedom.

Since citizenship would also prevent the INS from forcefully removing Elian, we request that you take no action to deliver this boy to Cuba before we can act on his citizenship measure. Any act to do so would stand in conflict with the spirit of the season and the memory of Elian's mother.

Sincerely,



Connie Mack
United States Senator



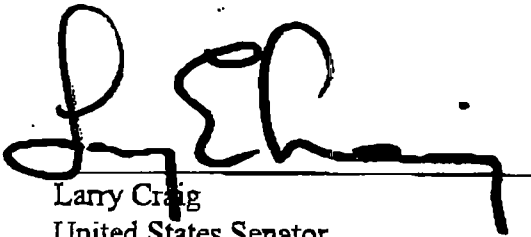
Trent Lott
United States Senator



Don Nickles
United States Senator



Paul Coverdell
United States Senator



Larry Craig
United States Senator

4/3

Neither ORM (Records Mgmt.)
nor Leg. Affairs have rec'd

The original of this letter.
(Courtney Crouch supplied
this copy)

— Jan

NOT ON OUR DATABASE AT ALL.

CONNIE MACK
FLORIDA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0804

Response?

March 30, 2000

cc: Maria E.
Beth Nolan

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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