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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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March 7, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

THROUGH: MORTON H. HALPERIN *MH*
FROM: MICHAEL LONGORIA *ML*
SUBJECT: Family Visitation to Guantanamo Planning Meeting

Family visitation plans are being finalized in Miami this week (8-9 Mar 95). Military planners from the Pentagon, US Atlantic Command, and Guantanamo are meeting with the Red Cross of Miami and Department of Justice (CRS) officials to put the final touches on a program that would allow Haitian and Cuban family members in Guantanamo to see their relatives. Media and outreach plans should now begin to develop around a possible announcement as early as the last week in March. We have requested public affairs/media representatives from the various organizations to be involved in this process.

RECOMMENDATION

That you send Suzanna Valdez to participate in the outbrief, Thursday AM, 9 March 95.

Attachment

Tab I Minutes of 27 Feb Planning Meeting

Minutes of Meeting
27 Feb 95
Miami Red Cross Bldg
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Participants: NSC Staff, Joint Staff, USACOM, TF-160, CRS (Dept of Justice), American Red Cross Miami Chapter.

Purpose: To develop procedures, define agency responsibilities and determine additional meeting requirements for allowing US families to visit their relatives who are in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Agenda of Previous 27 Feb Meeting:

- Introductory Remarks (NSC)
- Agency/Organizational Relationships
- Briefing by military authorities on requirements for volunteer efforts (JT STF/USACOM/TF-160)
- Division of Responsibilities (civilian/volunteer)
- Operational/Procedural Discussions

Summary of Required Actions for the Concerned Agencies:

Justice

1. Will have CRS Miami representative develop concept of operations for organizing the Safehaven Family Visitation Office.
2. Will have CRS host next meeting 8-9 March of Family Visitation Program participants in Miami.

JT STF

1. Will notify appropriate USACOM and TF-160 participants of their attendance at the 8-9 March meeting and be able to address the following issues:
 - a. Visitor vaccination requirements and baggage limitations.

b. Recommendation for Cuban/Haitian mix for visitation flights.

c. Recommendation for special case visits of psychiatric patients and limits for resident/visitor ratios.

American Red Cross (Miami Chapter)

1. Will provide concept of operations for the organization and staffing of the Miami Safehaven Family Visitor Application Center.

2. Will begin search for volunteer efforts to develop/establish management information program for the Application Center and the Visitor Office.

Cuban American National Council, Inc.

1. Will develop a concept of operations for organizing a volunteer counselor support element to accompany family visitors to Guantanamo. The counselors would be responsible for all passenger briefings to visitors and support efforts during flight and while in Guantanamo.

2. Assist in identifying Miami-based travel agencies for coordination with air carriers for commercial visitor travel.

NSC

1. Will review legal/contractual restrictions on quasi-government sanctioned program for air travel to Guantanamo.

2. Will raise issues that are beyond the scope of the participants to an interagency working group for resolution.

Proposed Agenda for 8-9 March Meeting

Wednesday 8 March:

-- Overview (Action: NSC Staff)

-- Concept Briefings:

- Application Center (American Red Cross)
- Family Visitor Office (CRS)
- Counselor Support Team (Cuban Amer Nat'l Council)
- Guantanamo Operations (USACOM/TF-160)
- Identify issues and plans of action
- Visit Application Center office sites (if possible)
- Develop Master Timeline

Thursday 9 March:

- Outbrief to Agency Media/Public Affairs Representatives
- Finalization of Master Timeline and Issues to be Resolved

POC for 8-9 Mar Meeting is Rosa Urquiola (305) 536-4756

CRS Miami, 51 SW 1st Ave
Suite 630 Downtown Miami
Claude Pepper Federal Bldg