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115087SS
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN from Mort Halperin
5.3.95

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT
ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT
MADE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON CUBAN MIGRATION

100/5

Government Sources

Department of Defense

Very pleased with decision to parole into the US all remaining Cuban migrants currently in Guantanamo. According to Gen Sheehan, Commander US Atlantic Command, "This action will improve military readiness, reduce government expenditures, and reduce the risk of US military personnel or Cuban migrants from the possibility of civil disturbances.

Department of State

Officers on the Cuba Desk have asked to be reassigned, Dennnis Hays and his Deputy Director Nancy Mason requested reassignment after they learned of the policy proposal on Monday evening (1 May)

Governor of Florida

✓ Multiple news stories quote Lawton Chiles as being very supportive of the intended policy goal: controlling the illegal flow of migrants to Florida and regularizing the legal flow of immigrants to Florida from Cuba.

Miami

--Democratic Friends

Luis Laredo: Upset about not being warned in advance but will support the policy; has several questions regarding long-term steps in dealing with Cuba---will help us.

Jorge Bolanos: takes the Laredo view.

Jorge Perez: takes the Laredo view.

Simon Ferro: was in Tallahassee and could not be reached for comment.

Maria Rodham: very disturbed with the announcement, does not want to be a negative voice and has chosen not to speak with reporters.

Herminio San Roman: message was left with him but could not be reached for comment.

Maria Torano: in Washington yesterday and was supportive.

✓ **Paul Cejas:** very positive, thinks this is all good news, fully supports and has volunteered to help in any way.

--Other Community Leaders

Jorge Mas Canosa: Has denounced forced repatriation and has vowed to take this fight (repatriation) to Congress.

Pepe Hernandez: Mas #2 at Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) says that all funding supporting the current resettlement efforts will be stopped immediately. The Foundation has been the largest segment of the Cuban-American, Miami-based Ad-Hoc Committee.

Ad-Hoc Committee: Has officially dissolved according to their attorney Maria Dominquez. This was the community-based organization that assisted in resettlement efforts.

Cesar Odio, Miami City Manager: likes bringing in all from Guantanamo but despises returning Cubans to Cuba. His public discourse differs from his private conversations with us. Now he thinks that the federal government ought to pay for all resettlement.

New Jersey

Carlos Portez: Was generally supportive and thought that closing down Guantanamo will be good in the long-term.

Madrid, Spain

Carlos Alberto Montaner: One of CANF's and Mas's enemy; thinks that the new twist is very good and answers the questions about the people in Guantanamo and at the same time does not give anything away to Castro.

Major MediaMiami Herald

A supportive editorial piece "Best of Bad Options" they suggest that *it will make no one wholly happy, but it could end the threat--to them and us--of an unlimited exodus of rafters.* Attached

New York Times

Supportive editorial emphasizing the military reasons for closing the migrant camps (readiness and cost)

CongressFor

✓ **Bob Graham:** very supportive (has asked for a letter of promised financial support to Florida--thinks this is the only way to keep support for this within Florida)

Porter Goss: very supportive (statement attached)

Against

Lincoln-Diaz Balart: denounces policy

Ilena Ros-Lehtinen: denounces policy

Connie Mack: denounces policy and does not want to pay the cost (for Florida)

Clay Shaw: says that Florida should not pay for this

Jesse Helms: Calls the President "an accomplice to Castro"

MIAMI HERALD

Best of bad options

NEW CUBA POLICY

It'll make no one wholly happy. But it could end the threat — to them and us — of an unlimited exodus of rafters.

this agreement as the best that can be made of a set of true dilemmas. Any choice that the Clinton administration could have made carried negatives to offset its positives. For example, indefinitely detaining any person contravenes human-rights principles. Nor is it practicable, as General Sheehan articulates so clearly. Nor, further, is it sustainable politically. Congress, Senator Graham notes, recently rejected a Pentagon request for \$50 million to improve facilities at Guantanamo. Thus Congress speaks its taste for this policy.

So what to do, what to do? Of the available options, admitting the Guantanamo detainees, and deducting them from the 20,000-a-year quota over four or five years, was the most desirable (or, put another way, the least undesirable).

No room for everyone

Similarly, no one is fond of returning Cuban rafters to Cuba aboard U.S. vessels. Yet two factors militate in favor of this policy: First, those who wish to leave Cuba have the legal channel to do so via the expanded number of visas. This lottery system is necessary because no country, not even one as large and generous as America, can accommodate every soul who wishes to emigrate, from Cuba or anywhere. Second, U.S. officials say that Cuba for nine months has lived up to last September's pledge not to punish rafters who return to Cuba, as 1,600 voluntarily have done.

Let us re-emphasize: It is vital that the administration fully observe its pledge to heed rafters who claim reason for political asylum. Where any doubt exists, let its benefit rest with the claimant. Failure to provide a ready, fair asylum process could doom this entire new policy.

And let us reiterate: This by no means is an ideal arrangement, much less all-pleasing to all segments of South Florida's various communities. Even so, the reaction of the Cuban American National Foundation and its vitriolic radio-station acolytes yesterday was disappointing in the extreme.

The CANF pledged to lobby Congress to subtract from the military services' budget all the money spent to interdict Cuban rafters. Worst of all, the CANF said that it is withdrawing as a voluntary sponsor of Cuban immigrants. By this gesture, the CANF puts its narrower political agenda above the broader and infinitely more important imperative to help these Cubans — these human beings — to begin life anew in the United States.

Let the CANF's pledge to abandon the Cuban detainees now at Guantanamo serve as a clarion call to awaken every humanitarian instinct — locally, regionally, and nationally. Churches, synagogues, other nongovernmental organizations, and individuals who can should do everything possible to find sponsors for these Cuban entrants and to help them put their prodigious energies to productive work.

"I am satisfied that this new policy forces Castro's government to control Cuba's borders, preventing hundreds of thousands of potential rafters from making landfall in Florida," Governor Chiles says. "I will continue to press for immigration justice for Florida on every possible front — from the White House to the federal courthouse and to the halls of the United States Congress."

We share the governor's belief in this policy's possible good effects. And we pledge our support in obtaining federal funds to ease immigration's inequitable financial burden on Florida.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

NEWS



CONGRESSMAN PORTER J. GOSS

14th District, Florida

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GOSS: CUBA REFUGEE POLICY APPEARS TO BE BACK ON TRACK

Gratified by the change in Cuban refugee policy announced today by the Clinton Administration, U.S. Rep. Porter Goss (FL-14) congratulated the President for getting the U.S. back on the right track.

"We are finally taking the heat off of what was an explosive situation. This is a reasonable short-term solution to a pressure cooker problem," Goss said.

The Clinton Administration announced today that the Immigration and Naturalization Service will parole into the U.S. all qualified Cuban refugees currently being held at Guantanamo Naval Base in Guantanamo, Cuba. This is expected to reduce the previously agreed-upon annual admittance of Cuban immigrants to 15,000.

"This follows closely the recommendations by myself and Sen. Bob Graham," said Goss, who has visited the refugee camps at Guantanamo twice in the past eight months, the last time in March. "Under current immigration policy, the Guantanamo refugee camp is rapidly being left to young males. When the summer heat hits the island, I'm not sure they'll remain calm, cool and collected after a year in tents. I am glad that the President has averted this impending disaster."

Goss said that the long term gain is the new policy to return to Cuba refugees who circumvent the proper immigration process. To discourage more Cubans from setting out to sea thinking that will be given direct entry to the states, the U.S. Coast Guard will carry them back to Cuba. U.S. monitors in Cuba will ensure the safety of those refugees who are returned.

"This will disarm Fidel Castro's strongest weapon against the U.S., that of victimizing his people by turning them into refugees to pressure the U.S. on foreign policy matters," Goss said.

"This is a significant achievement. If it works as it is envisaged, it should drastically reduce the disorganized immigration from Cuba and put lawful immigration on a more controlled and organized footing. This should allow the federal government to cope with the inflow and share the cost with all taxpayers, not just Florida taxpayers.

"Many voices had expressed concern that the Administration's previous Guantanamo policy was not a good solution for the Cuban people, or the Haitian people for that matter," Goss said. "It's a shame that they didn't figure this out before they picked up these refugees, diverted them to Guantanamo and expended great sums of money until they thought of a better plan."