

# FOIA MARKER

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**Folder Title:**  
CO045

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| <b>Stack:</b> | <b>Row:</b> | <b>Section:</b> | <b>Shelf:</b> | <b>Position:</b> |
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

C0045

DATE RECEIVED: JANUARY 14, 1999

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LEE H. HAMILTON

SUBJECT: ENDORSES THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE  
PRESIDENT AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
NATIONAL BIPARTISAN COMMISSION TO REVIEW  
CURRENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

|                          |                | ACTION |          | DISPOSITION |             |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| ROUTE TO:                |                | ACT    | DATE     | TYPE        | C COMPLETED |
| OFFICE/AGENCY            | (STAFF NAME)   | CODE   | YY/MM/DD | RESP        | D YY/MM/DD  |
| LARRY STEIN              |                | ORG    | 98/12/07 |             | C 98/12/07  |
|                          | REFERRAL NOTE: |        |          |             |             |
| SAMUEL R. "SANDY" BERGER |                | RSA    | 98/12/07 |             | C __/__/__  |
|                          | REFERRAL NOTE: |        |          |             |             |
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|                          | REFERRAL NOTE: |        |          |             |             |

COMMENTS: ORIGINAL LETTER FILE IN ORM - FAX COPY SENT  
TO NSC BY LA OFFICE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 12 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) D IN (B) (C)

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *          CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

S

290100

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 17, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

We write to endorse in the strongest terms the recommendation that you authorize the establishment of a National Bipartisan Commission to review current US policy toward Cuba. We are happy to join a bipartisan group of Senators and a long list of prominent policy makers, including former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, in calling for the establishment of such a commission.

A National Bipartisan Commission to review US policy toward Cuba offers a long-overdue opportunity to review US policy, and will go a long way toward re-building a bipartisan consensus on how to bring about a goal that all Americans share: promoting peaceful democratic change in Cuba.

There is a bipartisan consensus on that goal. There is overwhelming support for democratic change in Cuba, and it is clearly in the US national interest that there be a peaceful transition away from the anti-democratic and abusive policies of the Castro government.

There is not, however, bipartisan consensus on the means toward that goal. Within the Congress there is a variety of opinions on the best policy, as well as increased concern as to how current policy adversely affects competing US interests. Outside of Washington, divergent views on policy are expressed daily through the editorial pages of the nations' newspapers. And the massive volume of private cash flows to Cuba as well as the large numbers of travelers to Cuba each year suggest that many Americans with ties to Cuba reject one of the fundamental rationales of the current US policy: that measures designed to inflict economic pain are a necessary and appropriate means of promoting democratic change in Cuba.

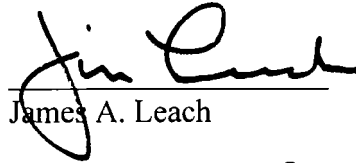
Establishing a commission to review Cuba policy will be a strong first step toward regaining bipartisan consensus on Cuba policy, and you would be right to authorize the establishment of such a commission.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter.

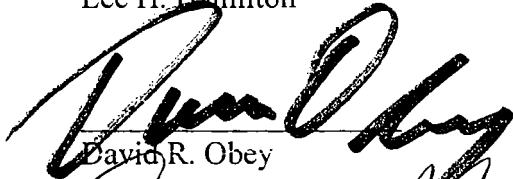
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
November 17, 1998  
Page Two



Lee H. Hamilton



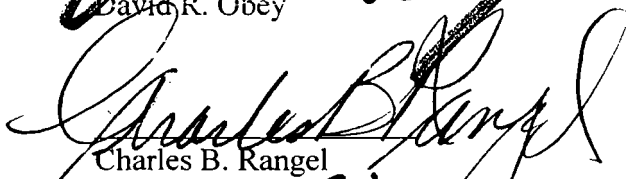
James A. Leach



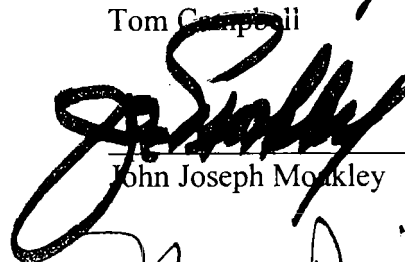
David R. Obey



Tom Campbell



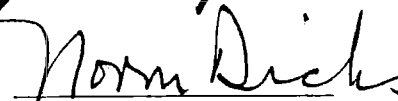
Charles B. Rangel



John Joseph Moakley



Sam Gejdenson



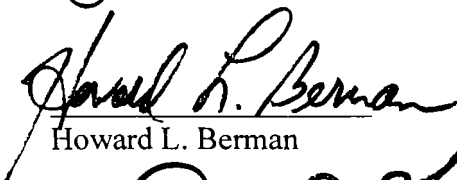
Norman D. Dicks



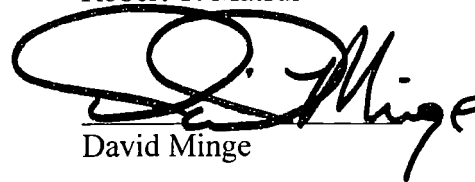
John J. LaFalce



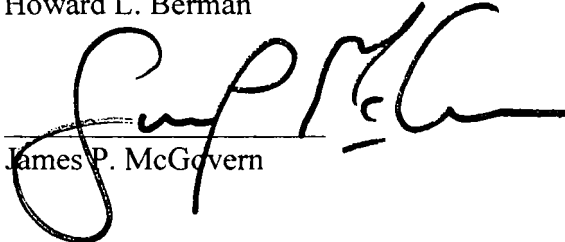
Robert T. Matsui



Howard L. Berman



David Minge



James P. McGovern

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