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U.S. Department of Labor

Deputy Under Secretary for
International Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20210



September 9, 1994

FAX: (202) 456-7929

To: Joe Velásquez, White House

From: Jack Otero, DOL
Deputy Under Secretary

Subject: Cuba crisis

Two days ago the Dade County Democratic Party announced the creation of a Cuban Task Force to be chaired by businessman and political activist Fausto B. Gómez. This is an important development and adds urgency to my earlier proposal that the President create a National Cuba Task Force to assist him in formulating policy as the Cuban crisis continues to unfold.

I strongly urge you to acknowledge Mr. Fausto B. Gómez as a strong and capable Cuban-American leader who can be very helpful to the administration in these critical issues. Mr. Gómez should be added to the list of key leaders to be invited to the White House on all events dealing with Cuba. His address is:

c/o Gómez Barker Assoc.
2350 Coral Way, Suite 301
Miami, Fl. 33145
(305) 860-0780

Also for your convenience, I enclose a list of highly credible and effective Cuban American community and political activists in the Miami area who have pledged to help the President and the administration on the Cuban crisis. I understand that, for the most part, these individuals have not been asked to participate in the Cuba crisis meeting held by administration representatives in Miami.

I intend to amplify this information at the 4:30 p.m. meeting today in your office.

cc:

~~Jack Otero~~
Nelson Reyneri
Roberto Rodríguez
Jorge Pérez-Lopez

DADE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEMOCRATIC PRIDE

JOSEPH S. GELLER
Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gus Garcia, Executive Director
(305) 576-1645

Dade Democratic Chairman Joe Geller announced today the creation of a Cuba Task Force to advise local and national political leaders on policy steps regarding events in the island and invited his Republican counterpart to join in this effort. Chairman Geller stated "Now is not the time for partisan politics. It is time for all persons, notwithstanding their political affiliation, to join together on behalf of the cause of a free Cuba and in support of those individuals risking their lives in search of freedom. We call on all members of this community to support the decisive action taken by President Clinton in confronting the dictator Castro and in protecting our national interest."

Fausto Gomez, a prominent Dade civic leader and President of Gomez Barker Associates, Inc. of Miami was named by Geller as Chairman of the Task Force. In accepting the Task Force appointment, Gomez stated "Castro is using human lives as a bargaining chip to save his failed Revolution. His motives are transparent and we need to support the vigorous and effective measures taken by the Clinton Administration. Castro is on the ropes and now is the time to turn up the heat with consideration given to all available options. We must also insure fair and humane treatment of Cuban political refugees and call for the appointment of an experienced Cuban-American civilian to coordinate aid to the refugees at the various havens. We request that the Chairmen of both political parties mobilize their members in Congress to support strong measures leading to the liberation of Cuba."

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The Task Force has requested meetings with the Chairmen of the Hispanic and Black Congressional Caucuses in order to demand even-handed treatment with regard to policies dealing with Haiti and Cuba and meetings with the Secretaries of the State and Treasury Departments and Attorney General Janet Reno to urge full enforcement of the sanctions that the President has announced and to urge continued strong steps, including support of dissident groups and the internal and external opposition.

The announcement follows a large meeting of Cuban community leaders held at the Biltmore Hotel last Monday at which time a call was made to Cubans on the island to not risk their lives on flimsily rafts trying to cross the Florida straits but to live and struggle for democracy in Cuba. Over seventy-five people attended the three-hour meeting, including two Cuban-American leaders who met with the President last week, Summit of the Americas Executive Director Luis Lauredo and Miami City Manager Cesar Odio. Also in attendance were Maria Victoria Arias, wife of U. S. Senate candidate Hugh Rodham; Miami City Commissioner Willy Gort; and representatives of U. S. Senator Bob Graham, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and Congressman Peter Deutsch; as well as representatives of several Metro Commissioners. The group expressed general support for the steps taken to date by President Clinton while urging that further actions against the Castro regime be undertaken.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACTIVISTS

- 1) **Lazaro Albo**
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Miami, Florida 33129
(305) 854-6291
- 2) **Jose "Pepe" Collado**
President, Dade County Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
7910 N. W. 25th Street, Suite 202
Miami, Florida 33122
(305) 593-7822
- 3) **Bernardo Escobar**
Chief of Staff, Commissioner Javier Souto
111 N. W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128
(305) 375-4835
- 4) **Gustavo Marin**
President, Democrats for Democracy in Cuba
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Miami, Florida 33165
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- 5) **Hon. Willy Gort**
Commissioner, City of Miami
3500 Pan American Drive
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- 6) **Annie Betancourt**
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- 7) **Manolo Reyes**
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- 9) **Mimi Friedman**
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- 10) **Hon. Alex Penelas**
Dade County Commissioner
Metropolitan Dade County
Stephen P. Clark Center
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- 11) **Teresa Gavalda**
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- 12) **Victoria Hernandez**
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- 16) Andres Rivero Agüero
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facsimile

TRANSMITTAL

to: Suzanna A. Valdez
fax #: 202-456-6218
re: Guantanamo
date: December 12, 1994
pages: page(s) total, including this cover sheet

Attached is copy of Dr. Cabada Rubirosa's memorandum of November 27, 1994. We know him for many years, and trust his advise. We are enclosing a copy of his resume, a former U.S. army major, who was ask to assist the Contras, he is very sensitive to political issues and the media. He has promised to give us a copy of this week's visit. He feels that there is a potential for the manipulation of the mentally ill, to stage a tragic act. His criticism are of constructive nature, he repeated several time that the cooperation he has received was excellent.

Regards

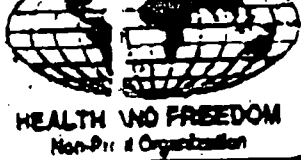
Jorge

From the desk of...

Jorge L. Bolanos
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wrapping the bedsheet around her body and was setting herself on fire when stopped by her family. Another child of 9 years (a girl) has a history of 3 suicide attempts and manifested a willingness to die and join the grandmother (already deceased), obsessed with stabbing herself in the heart. Another child I evaluated, a 6 year old boy who is so depressed he has stopped eating for approximately 6 weeks, is only drinking milk and has lost considerable weight. The most serious aspect threatening the lives of the young children is their lack of comprehension of the present circumstances. They are not able to successfully understand and process all events and many have manifested an unwillingness to continue living in this world which they perceive as cruel and brutal towards them.

Recommendations:

- a) Remove the children and their families out of Guantanamo and into the civilian world immediately.
- b) Create Group Therapy sessions during school hours in order to allow them to verbalize their feelings and formulate and foster a perspective of hope for them.
- c) Create a Child Mental Health Service - in order to provide counseling and medication management services for the ones requiring these.

4-) Promotion of Dignification and Involvement of the Cuban Refugee Professionals - I want to start this item by commending the superhuman efforts and unselfish dedication of the US Medical Personnel. Enough praise cannot be made of their efforts and dedication particularly those of General Ayra, USMC, who has been very sensitive and involved with improving the conditions of the refugees, he has been very influential in facilitating the most optimal conditions possible and Captain Jerry Rose, M.D., USN - his untiring efforts, professionalism and concerns cannot be properly expressed by words. His commitment to help was highly commendable. Col. Keller - whose humanitarian involvement has been an example to follow and emulate by others. Capt. David Arreola, USAF - this psychologist has dedicated himself far beyond the call of duty in his involvement with the care of the patients, a true human being who gives an expanded dimension to the term humanitarian. The Cuban Professionals need to become actively involved in the front line treatment of the patients. Their morale has been adversely afflicted by their experience in the camps. Almost universally they feel that they are not treated with the respect and dignity to which they feel that they are entitled, in view of the particular fact that they work as volunteers putting long hours everyday with no remuneration of any kind.

Recommendation:

Take general measures to ensure that they can travel safely in the performance of their duties, receive recognition for their work

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- 4) Developing and enhancing the Mental Health Stations - to be done both in the camps and in conjunction with the Crisis Stabilization Unit.
- 5) Transfer to CONUS the cases in severe need of Inpatient Psychiatric Care and Mental Health Centers assistance - Those patients who need either inpatient psychiatric care or those who need assistance at Mental Health Centers, should be expedited for transfer to CONUS in order to free the minimally available Mental Health resources at GIMO which are completely inadequate to handle such a large psychiatric population.
- 6) Improving the Quality of Radio Programs - This was one of the most common complaints, that the radio programming was totally culturally insensitive and minimally diversionary. The radio programs can be enhanced by providing: (1) Music - that is culturally consonant to the population, (2) Radio novels (soap operas) in order to develop interests other than their personal problems, (3) Educational Radio Programs - oriented to providing educational & cultural interests in the general population, (4) Mental Health oriented Radio programs - designed to help the population cope with their existing problems.
- 7) Enhancing Musical, Sports activities - Enhancing involvement in intercamp competitions of sports activities inc Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball. Developing musical groups and dance activities to entertain the population.
- 8) Remove the children and their families to CONUS - This should be done as soon as possible, preferably within the next 30 days, I fear an escalation of children suicides will take place in the next few months. Many have lost the willingness to continue living in these conditions.

I hope all these recommendations are undertaken expeditiously since time is of the essence in order to avoid further loss of life. This brings to mind an advise given to me as a child: NEVER TRAP A SPARROW SINCE THEY ALL DIE IF HELD IN CAPTIVITY.

Respectfully yours,

Heriberto Cabada Rovirosa, M.D.
Psychiatrist
Director of Psychiatric Services, MMT.

Family Reunification Project

December 10, 1994

The Honorable Janet Reno
Office of the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Tenth Street & Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

We, the members of the Ad Hoc Committee (the "Committee"), a broad based coalition of civic, community and service organizations from throughout South Florida, present to you herewith a proposal to secure sponsorship for the resettlement of all persons currently held in safe havens in Guantanamo Naval Base and Panama that the U.S. government paroles into the United States. !!!

Our proposal is comprised of a private sector initiative to resettle all persons into the U.S. at no cost to the federal, state or local taxpayers. This program, fashioned after the successful Cuban American National Foundation Cuban Exodus Relief Fund (CERF), which has resettled approximately 10,000 refugees with their families in the U.S. since 1988, would provide for private organizations, families, and individuals to serve as sponsors, thereby assuming full responsibility for all persons, including housing, food, employment, health care, education and transportation costs. !!!

This proposed program could facilitate the processing and resettlement of Cubans and Haitians from safe havens and provide an orderly and permanent solution to the current situation. To date, over 9,000 files have been completed for families who wish to sponsor relatives in safe havens, and additional files are being completed on a daily basis by family members who continue to come forth. Furthermore, the Committee has begun to secure sponsors for those who do not have family in the U.S. and hereby commits to sponsor all individuals paroled by the U.S. government from Guantanamo and Panama. !!!

The program that we hereby propose is as follows:

I. **Eligibility**

1) The Committee understands that the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) has sole responsibility to determine eligibility for admission to the U.S.. We also

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To that effect, the Committee has obtained a commitment from United Airlines and Express Travel to provide air transportation. Any costs shall be paid by the sponsors or covered by the Committee through private donations. Discussions are also underway with American Airlines;

4) Each application will include proof of acceptance to a private primary school for all children between the ages of five (5) and twelve (12) who are sons or daughters of the primary applicant or under his or her custody.

The Committee has, thus far, secured commitments from various private educational organizations to provide scholarships. These include 700 child day care slots and no less than 1,000 school places pledged by the Bilingual Private Schools Association (BIPRISA), including transportation, food, educational materials and supplies for the students. The Archdiocese of Miami is also prepared to accept children from Guantanamo and Panama into their schools beginning in Kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition, support from the Dade County Public Schools will be provided in the form of volunteer teachers and trainers, vocational and technical training, and surplus materials. Other support has also been pledged by, among others, Lincoln-Martí Schools and Martín Technical College;

5) Each application will include at least one offer of employment for the primary applicant or another person included in the application.

The Committee has secured commitments for the provision of pre-employment skills training, based on each individual's needs, to enhance his/her job readiness, along with the provision of job search and direct placement assistance with the area private sector employers to identify job opportunities. The direct placement will be individualized as determined by the skills, interest and abilities, and the provision of vocational counseling will insure that each person will remain sufficiently motivated to continue their employment participation. A private sector job bank has been developed to identify entry level positions.

III. Resource Development / Fund Raising

1) Fundraising, volunteer assistance, and resource development will be spearheaded by the Committee with the support of its member organizations on an on-going basis. To begin its fundraising efforts, the Committee has secured a donation of \$100,000 from the Kwans of Little Havana along with an initial pledge to raise an additional \$100,000. Commitments have also been received from "Hermanos Al Rescate" (Brothers to the Rescue), the "Municipios de Cuba En El Exilio" (Cuba's Municipalities in Exile), "Alianza de Jóvenes Cubanos" (Alliance of Young Cubans), The Miami Herald / El Nuevo Herald, and "Puente de Jóvenes Profesionales Cubanos" (Bridge of Young Cubans). Local Spanish language media such as Univision, Telemundo, and local radio stations have also pledged to assist in fundraising efforts.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a trust fund to meet these needs. The Committee also welcomes the participation of any individual and organization willing and able to contribute resources to carry out its goal of family reunification;

2) The Committee is prepared to secure funding to cover all costs of resettlement. Furthermore, the Committee would like to discuss with the Department of Justice the potential funding of costs incurred by the voluntary agencies for their services.

Madame Attorney General, the proposal outlined above represents a sincere and serious effort by a broad spectrum of the South Florida community to contribute to find a solution to the situation created by the influx of Cuban and Haitian refugees. Through this proposal, the people of South Florida are showing their readiness to become part of a fair and just solution to this problem. We know this is also yours and the President's primary concern, therefore we are confident that our proposal will receive your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Jorge Antzurista
Puente

Joaquin Avino
Metro Dade County

Jose Basulto
Brothers to the Rescue

Joselina Carbonell
LHANC

Alberto Cosio
Alianza

Christina Cuervo
Alianza

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Pedro Menendez
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Father Jose Nickas
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Cesar Odio
City of Miami

Francisco Paredes
LHANG / Proj. MARTI

Leslie Partin Jr.
Kwanis of Little Havana

Demetrio Perez
Lincoln Marti Schools

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Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	22 AUG	# of pages	4
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Secretary of Defense William J. Perry
Deputy Secretary of Transportation Mortimore Downey
Admiral Paul David Miller, Commander, U.S. Atlantic Command
Rear Admiral William Lahey, Commander, 7th Coast Guard District
Key West, Florida
Monday, August 22, 1994

Secretary Perry. Thank you very much, Dennis.

Secretary Downey and I made this trip down here today -- and we're going on to Guantanamo after we finish our visit here -- because we wanted to get a firsthand assessment of the operations being conducted jointly by the Navy and the Coast Guard to rescue the Cuban migrants who were fleeing from Cuba in the last few days.

This has been a very complex operation. The Navy and the Coast Guard have worked closely together in executing it. I must say that I'm enormously impressed with the effectiveness of this operation and the way in which the Navy and the Coast Guard are working together on it. It has been successful in saving hundreds of lives. It's being done very professionally and with great compassion. I want to take this opportunity, though, to urge Cubans not to get on these votes, not to come to sea. It's a very dangerous operation. We are doing our best to save the people who are going out on these makeshift boats, and so far have been successful.

The Cuban migrants that we are picking up, we are transporting to Guantanamo and when I finish here in Key West today we will be flying next to Guantanamo to view the facilities being prepared there for their arrival.

We have brought into this area already 25 ships - 19 Coast Guard cutters and six Navy ships. Three more Navy ships will be here in the next 24 to 48 hours. We have accommodated a flow of migrants which has exceeded a thousand people a day in the last few days. We don't know how many more we are expecting in the next few days, so we are prepared to continue to accommodate if that flow continues. We are preparing facilities at Guantanamo Bay for receiving these migrants.

I'd like to turn over the podium to Secretary Downey and let him describe Coast Guard operations here. Then he and I and Admiral Lahey and Admiral Miller will be available for any of your questions.

Deputy Secretary Downey: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

On behalf of the Department of Transportation, I'm down here with Secretary Perry to look at what both the Coast Guard and the Navy are doing. As he said, it is a fully integrated operation. The Coast Guard has deployed 20 cutters and will have more here. It's very complex, both in terms of picking up the migrants out of the straits and moving them all the way to Guantanamo. As he said, we would much prefer it if the Cubans would not put their lives at risk. It's very, very risky out there. The operation is with many, many rafts, inner tubes, and other makeshift vessels. As such, we can't be sure that we're catching them all, but we are doing our best to do that and we will keep it up as of now. We are keeping up with the flow, but it's putting a tremendous strain on the Coast Guard and on the Navy. We want to keep at it.

We'll be glad to answer your questions.

Q: (Inaudible)

Secretary Perry: I comment only by observing that Guantanamo is fenced off and we do not permit Cubans to enter Guantanamo. Up until now, the Cuban government has not permitted Cubans to approach that, but the barriers there are really both Cuban and American. We have fences and gates and guards set up to prevent that from happening.

Q: What would happen if ... [inaudible]?

Secretary Perry: The guards there would have instructions to prevent that from happening.

Q: [Inaudible]

Secretary Perry: I don't know how far I can go in speculating on "what if's" here, but the guards are there to prevent that from happening.

AUG 22 '94 17:26 FROM OASD-PA-DDI

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Q: [Inaudible]

Secretary Perry: We are concentrating all of our efforts and all of our planning now in dealing with the migrant flow. All of the resources in this area, all the Naval boats, all the naval ships and the Coast Guard ships are directed to that end. That is, to picking up the migrants. We do not have orders or directions at this time to effect an economic blockade. That's a very different operation. It would require more resources, more ships than we have located here to do that.

Q: [Inaudible]

Secretary Perry: That's an option, but that's not part of our present planning.

Q: [Inaudible]

Secretary Perry: We're still conducting the blockade in Haiti. Let me ask Admiral Miller to comment further on that.

Admiral Miller: We've shifted [some] of the assets we've had enforcing sanctions off of Haiti, but we still have six units enforcing the sanctions there. The Coast Guard units are still there with their migrant interdiction operation. And I'm very comfortable, and reported to Secretary Perry on the way down here, that the Haiti sanction effort is in force. The [inaudible] operation is in force, and the non-combatant evacuation operation, that capability is still intact while this operation is being conducted separately.

Q: [Inaudible]

Admiral Lahey: That hasn't been brought to our attention. We have enough assets out there between the Navy and the Coast Guard to pick up all the rafts that are spotted out there. They're probably safer during this period of time than they have ever been in the past, just because of the assets we have out there. Not only the surface assets, but also the aerial detection and monitoring that we're doing on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

Q: [Inaudible]

Admiral Lahey: No, we have a restricted zone out there. It was established, I believe, on Saturday morning. We have military planes flying in those areas, and that's just a safety precaution. I think it's 5,000 feet and below.

Q: [Inaudible]

Secretary Perry: We are making plans now to provide for up to 10,000 refugees at Guantanamo. And we will reach that, we'll have that provision ready by the end of this week. We also have the potential of accommodating up to 2,500 people at the TCI -- the Turks & Caicos Islands. We could provide an additional,

AUG-22-1994 18:57 FROM OSD-RSA-IA

TO

*7#92024567929

P.05

AUG 22 '94 17:27 FROM OASD-PA-DDI

PAGE.004

perhaps, 2,500 at Suriname. Whenever the new government in Panama is in place the first of September, we also can provide a safehaven for refugees in Panama.

Thank you very much.

.END.

8:00

Over the past month, several ferries were hijacked from the port of Havana by fleeing Cubans and there has been an increasing amount of unrest as seen by demonstrations in Cuba. On August 5th, Castro made provocative statements indicating that he would instruct Cuban border guards "not to intercept those boats that want to go to the United States..."

The Coast Guard has experienced a steady increase in the number of Cuban migrants during the past week. Yesterday the Coast Guard made 50 separate rescues saving 538 Cubans. The total number of Cubans picked up this week exceeded 2,000 and was the largest number in one week since 1980. The Coast Guard has rescued more Cuban migrants in the Florida Straits during the past eight months than it did during 1992 and 1993. While the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been able to handle the present flow of migrants from Cuba, the steady flow and the number of empty rafts found at sea raises serious humanitarian concerns that must be confronted before a crisis occurs.

As announced by the Attorney General, in an effort to deter more Cubans from risking their lives, as of last night the INS is detaining individuals interdicted that were brought to American shores.

The current situation is a reflection of the failed economic and political policies of the Cuban regime.

The actions I am taking today are designed to avert a crisis in which hundreds of lives are endangered. Primary concern right now is to stop people from risking their lives at sea.

Like Haitians, Cubans will be rescued at sea and offered safety and protection outside their country. They will not be allowed to enter the United States illegally by boat.

The Cuban regime has shown a callous disregard for the lives of its people by turning a blind eye to their departure in unsafe rafts and by actively encouraging the life risking voyage.

WE WILL NOT ALLOW A NEW MARIEL.

WE WILL NOT ALLOW CUBA TO DICTATE OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY.

WE WILL NOT ALLOW CUBA TO EXPORT ITS DISCONTENT.

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE U.S. ECONOMIC EMBARGO ON CUBA.

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE CUBAN ADJUSTMENT ACT.

Schwartz, Eric P.

From: Darragh, Sean J.
To: Schwartz, Eric P.
Subject: Cuban Talking Pts
Date: Friday, August 19, 1994 1:00PM

- As with Haitians, the US will not do refugee screening at Guantanamo. Bona fide refugees may apply in Havana for entry to the U.S. We currently admit almost 3000 Cuban refugees a year through in-country processing.
- We urge Cubans to stay in Cuba and to enter the US lawfully rather than risk their lives at Sea.
- We do not anticipate a long term Cuban safe haven at Guantanamo. Every effort will be made to offer protection to Cubans in third countries.
We believe that nations in the region will help us in this effort.
- We expect that these actions will stem the flow of Cubans fleeing and risking their lives. We expect this to avert another Mariel boat lift.
- For the Cubans being detained in the U.S., we are complying with the immigration and nationality act and a determination of their admissability is being made.

U. S. Coast Guard

Talking Points -- Cuban Interdictions -- 19 August 1994

The U. S. Coast is acting today to implement the President's statement regarding Cuban migrants. To that end, the Coast Guard has increased its patrols in the South Florida area. Cutters, small boats, and aircraft are actively patrolling the Florida Straits and south Florida area to support the safety of life at sea and to enforce the laws of the United States.

Cuban migrants rescued at sea will be taken to the U. S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they will be turned over to INS authorities. All persons rescued by the Coast Guard will be given humanitarian treatment, including medical assistance, food, water, and shelter.

The U. S. Coast Guard will continue to conduct search and rescue patrols looking for Cuban migrants and persons in distress on the high seas. The paramount concern is the safety of life at sea.

The Coast Guard will board U. S. flag vessels that appear to be bound for Cuba. The purpose of this action is to determine the intended destination and purpose of travel of each vessel.

If the Coast Guard finds probable cause to believe that a vessel is being used in an attempt to transport undocumented migrants to the U. S. in violation of U. S. law, the vessel will be seized and appropriate legal action taken.

U. S. vessels returning from Cuba with undocumented migrants on board will be seized by the Coast Guard and their crews will be turned over to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal action.

Note: The U. S. Coast Guard does not routinely release the location of its law enforcement assets. Coast Guard units deployed at sea are engaged in a variety of multi-mission activities, including search and rescue, law enforcement, drug interdiction, and environmental protection. The release of unit location may compromise ongoing law enforcement cases.

Q. Do you have enough cutters in the South Florida area for this mission?

A. Yes, the Coast Guard is maintaining a strong presence in the Straits of Florida. Additional resources will be provided as at sea operations require.

Q. Will Navy vessels be used?

A. The Coast Guard and the Navy will continue their cooperative and complementary life saving efforts in the Caribbean. U. S. Navy assets may be used as the circumstances require.

Q. Will you detain U. S. boats outbound from Florida "on the spot?"

A. Violations of U. S. law will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Q. Will legitimate Cuban political refugees be taken to Florida or Guantanamo?

A. The Coast Guard will take all rescued migrants to GITMO for processing by the INS.

Q. Will the Coast Guard attempt to stop people who voluntarily attempt to rescue Cubans at sea.

A. No. Persons engaged in legitimate activities who are attempting to rescue persons in distress are not violating U. S. law. When the actions of a boat are unclear, an appropriate assessment will be made. If there is probable cause to believe that U. S. laws have been violated, then a proper legal action will ensue.

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 9/7/94

TO: George Dominicis

CC: Maria Victoria Arias
Joe Velasquez
Suzanna Valdez

FROM: Luis Lauredo

RE: WESTERN UNION SERVICES TO CUBA

COMMENTS: AS PER ATTACHED, PLEASE BEGIN PREPARING

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THANK YOU,

REGARDS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE): 2

MEMORANDUM**VIA FAX**

DATE: August 26, 1994

TO: Joe Geller - Chair, Dade County Democratic Party

FROM: Luis Lauredo *LL*

RE: CUBA TASK FORCE

I am in receipt of today's press release announcing the creation of the Cuba Task Force by the Dade County Democratic Party. I know this is a result of the Party's Monday night meeting, in which I had the opportunity to address over 75 Cuban-American Democrats to explain the President's Cuba policies and soliciting these activists' support for President Clinton.

I see from the press release that the Cuba Task Force is seeking to arrange a series of meetings with congressional delegations and administrative officials in Washington D.C. While I think this is an important endeavor, at present it is much more urgent for us to channel our energies into being more vocally supportive of President Clinton in the Spanish media, particularly in the Cuban radio.

As I highlighted in my presentation, President Clinton's policies/measures towards Cuba are the most anti-Castro since President Kennedy's, including those of Republican Presidents Nixon, Reagan and Bush. Therefore, we have a very good message to deliver and we need to get all Cuban-American Democrats working to reverse the disinformation campaign which is being carried by the Cuban media.

Regards.

LL/en

bcc: Reta Lewis
Suzanna Valdez
Joe Velasquez

Post-It® Fax Note		7671	Date	8/26/94	# of pages	1
To	SUZANNA VALDEZ		From	L. LAUREDO		
Co./Dept.			Co.			
Phone #			Phone #	305/579-7611		
Fax #	202/456-6218		Fax #			

TREASURY



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • 1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. • 20220 • (202) 622-2960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 1994

STATEMENT BY R. RICHARD NEWCOMB
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

On August 20, President Clinton announced further steps which the U.S. Government would take to respond to the Cuban Government's attempt to export a problem of its own making to the U.S., and risking the lives of Cuba's own countrymen in the process.

The additional steps announced by the President and effective at 11 a.m. today will deny the Cuban Government badly needed foreign exchange. The implementing measures which I am prepared to discuss in more detail today will further restrict travel to Cuba of Americans and people residing in the U.S.

Travel aboard charter flights between Cuba and the U.S. will be limited to legal immigrants from Cuba, those covered by general license -- government officials and journalists -- and those covered by specific license -- that is, travelling for clearly defined research, religious and humanitarian purposes. Specific licenses in cases of exceptional humanitarian concern may be issued to visit family members. Additionally, licenses to recognized human rights groups to investigate human rights violations may also be issued.

Envios de dinero

Remittances from U.S. relatives of Cuban nationals will no longer be permitted, although, again, there will be exceptions for humanitarian reasons and to facilitate the travel of lawful immigrants to the U.S.

Gift parcels and humanitarian donations will still be permitted, but their permissible content will be more clearly and narrowly defined.

These measures will severely curtail the flow of U.S. dollars into Cuba. The Cuban economy will no longer benefit from travel-related transactions originating in the U.S. and from cash remittances sent from the U.S. The Cuban government will no longer have access to these U.S. dollars which have for so long helped to sustain the Castro regime.

LB-1040

-30-

(202) 622-8661

TREASURY



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • 1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. • 20220 • (202) 622-2960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 1994

Cuba Regulations Fact Sheet

Pursuant to the President's announcement on August 20, 1994, the Treasury Department is

- Revoking the general authorizations permitting cash remittances to Cuba, except to facilitate lawful immigration.
- Revoking the general authorizations for persons engaging in travel-related transactions in Cuba for purposes of family visits and professional research.
- Significantly restricting the general authorization incorporating the authorization contained in the General License GIFT, administered by the Department of Commerce, to limit the permissible contents of gift parcels eligible for exportation to Cuba to medicine, food and strictly humanitarian items.
- Except for purposes of facilitating lawful immigration, cash remittances to Cuba will only be permitted for limited humanitarian purposes through case-by-case specific licensing.
- Charter flights between Miami and Havana will only be authorized to carry legal immigrants, U.S. and foreign government and international organization employees traveling on official business, journalists, and persons traveling under specific license.
- Travel-related transactions by persons demonstrating a compelling need to travel to Cuba for humanitarian reasons involving extreme hardship, for clearly and narrowly defined educational and religious activities, for activities of recognized human rights organizations investigating cases of human rights violations, or for activities related to professional research, telecommunications, or the exportation, importation, or transmission of information of informational materials will be considered for a specific license on a case-by-case basis.

Rader.
(305) 445 - 4048

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

TO BE PUBLISHED TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 1994.

Office of Foreign Assets Control

31 CFR Part 515

Cuban Assets Control Regulations; Restrictions on Remittances and Travel Transactions

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; amendments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the President's announcement on August 20, 1994, the Treasury Department is revoking the general authorizations permitting cash remittances to Cuba, except to facilitate lawful immigration; revoking the general authorizations for persons engaging in travel-related transactions in Cuba for purposes of family visits and professional research; and significantly restricting the general authorization incorporating the authorization contained in the General License GIFT, administered by the Department of Commerce, to limit the permissible contents of gift parcels eligible for exportation to Cuba to medicine, food and strictly humanitarian items. Except for purposes of facilitating lawful immigration, cash remittances to Cuba will only be permitted for limited humanitarian purposes through case-by-case specific licensing. Charter flights between Miami and Havana will only be authorized to carry legal immigrants, U.S and foreign government and international organization employees traveling on official business, journalists, and persons traveling under specific license. Travel-related transactions by persons demonstrating a compelling need to travel to Cuba for humanitarian reasons involving extreme hardship, for clearly and narrowly defined educational and religious activities, for activities of recognized human rights organizations investigating cases of human rights violations, or for activities related to professional research, telecommunications, or the exportation, importation, or transmission of information or informational materials will be considered for a specific license on a case-by-case basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: [insert date of filing for public inspection]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Steven I. Pinter, Chief of Licensing (tel.: 202/622-2480), William F. Wasley, Chief of Enforcement (tel.: 202/622-2430), Dennis P. Wood, Chief, Compliance Programs Division (202/622-2490), or William B. Hoffman, Chief Counsel (tel.: 202/622-2410), Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C. 20220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability:

This document is available as an electronic file on *The Federal Bulletin Board* the day of publication in the **Federal Register**. By modem dial 202/512-1387 or call 202/515-1530 for disks or paper copies. This file is available in Postscript, WordPerfect 5.1 and ASCII.

Background

On August 20, 1994, President Clinton announced steps to limit the ability of the Cuban government to accumulate foreign exchange. Accordingly, the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("FAC") is amending the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 CFR Part 515 (the "Regulations"), to implement these measures by revising existing provisions that heretofore have

generally authorized travel-related transactions, cash remittances, and the shipment of gift parcels to Cuba. Specifically, § 515.533 no longer authorizes exportation to Cuba of gift parcels pursuant to General License GIFT, § 771.18 of the Export Administration Regulations, 15 CFR Parts 768–799 (the “EAR”), except those containing only food, vitamins, seeds, medicines, medical supplies and devices, hospital supplies and equipment, equipment for the handicapped, clothing, personal hygiene items, veterinary medicines and supplies, fishing equipment and supplies, soap-making equipment, or certain radio equipment and batteries for such equipment. The complete list of eligible items is set forth in § 771.18 of the EAR.

Section 515.560 of the Regulations is revised to limit the categories of travelers to Cuba who are generally authorized to engage in travel-related transactions to journalists and officials of the United States or foreign governments or international organizations traveling on official business. “Fully-hosted” travelers are no longer authorized to travel aboard charter flights between the United States and Cuba. Section 515.416 is revised to set forth the criteria by which specific licenses may be issued for travel-related transactions for “professional research.” Travel transactions by close relatives of Cuban nationals may only be authorized on a case-by-case basis by specific license, and only under circumstances of extreme hardship. Specific licenses for travel-related transactions may still be issued for other strictly humanitarian purposes, for clearly defined educational or religious activities, for activities of recognized human rights organizations investigating human rights violations, or for activities related to professional research, telecommunications, or the exportation, importation or transmission of information or informational materials.

Section 515.563, which previously provided general authorization for family remittances for the support of close relatives in Cuba, is revised to permit transfers of funds to Cuba only if authorized on a case-by-case basis for humanitarian purposes upon a demonstration of extreme hardship. However, payments not exceeding \$500 to facilitate a close relative’s lawful immigration to the United States remain generally licensed. All other general authorizations contained in the Regulations for remittances are revoked. In particular, § 515.564 is revised to specify that remittances to Cuba for purposes of facilitating a Cuban national’s travel to the United States for purposes other than immigration may only be made pursuant to a specific license. Similarly prohibited are remittances to Cuba in connection with intellectual property protection (§ 515.528) and public performances (§ 515.565).

Because the Regulations involve a foreign affairs function, Executive Order 12866 and provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553, requiring notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public participation, and delay in effective date are inapplicable. Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this rule, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, does not apply.

List Of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 515

Administrative practice and procedure, Cuba, Exports, Foreign trade, Intellectual property, Remittances, Travel restrictions.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 31 CFR part 515 is amended as set forth below:

PART 515—CUBAN ASSETS CONTROL REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 515 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. App. 1-44; 22 U.S.C. 6001-6010; 22 U.S.C. 2370(a); Proc. 3447, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 157; E.O. 9193, 3 CFR, 1938-1943 Comp., p. 1174; E.O. 9989, 3 CFR, 1943-1948 Comp., p. 748; E.O. 12854, 58 FR 36587, July 7, 1993.

Subpart D—Interpretations

2. Section 515.416 is revised to read as follows:

§ 515.416 Professional research and similar activities.

(a) Section 515.560(b) sets forth the criteria by which specific licenses for transactions related to travel to, from, and within Cuba may be issued for persons who are engaging in professional research and similar activities of a noncommercial, academic nature.

(1) Persons are considered to be engaged in *professional research* for purposes of this section only if they are full-time professionals who travel to Cuba to do research in their professional areas, their research is specifically related to Cuba and will constitute a full work schedule in Cuba, and there is a substantial likelihood of public dissemination of the product of their research. No transactions related to tourist or recreational travel within Cuba are authorized in connection with professional research, except those that are consistent with a full schedule of research activities.

(2) *Similar activities* include attendance by professionals with an established interest in Cuba at professional meetings where research on Cuba is shared, and travel for noncommercial research purposes specifically related to Cuba by persons who are working to qualify themselves academically as professionals (e.g., certain graduate degree candidates). Study visits to Cuba in connection with pre-college or undergraduate college course work are not within the scope of the term *professional research and similar activities*.

(b) Categories of travel which do not qualify as professional research or similar activities and for which specific license requests will be denied include recreational travel; tourist travel; travel in pursuit of a hobby; general study tours; general orientation visits; student class field trips; youth camps; research for personal satisfaction only; travel by fishing or bird-watching groups and similar affinity groups; and any travel for an authorized research purpose, if the schedule of activities includes free time, travel, or recreation in excess of that consistent with a full work schedule of professional research and similar activities.

(c) A group does not fall within the scope of the term *professional research and similar activities* merely because some members of the group could qualify individually for specific licensing under this category. For example, a specific license authorizing travel-related transactions by a fish biologist who travels to Cuba to engage in professional research does not authorize other persons who might travel with the fish biologist but whose principal purpose in travel is to engage in recreational or trophy fishing. The fact that such persons may engage in certain activities with, or under the direction of, the professional fish biologist, such as measuring or recording facts about their catch, does not bring these individuals' activities within the scope of professional research and similar activities.

(d) A person will not qualify as engaging in professional research or similar activities merely because that person is a professional who plans to travel to Cuba. For example, a professor of history interested in traveling to Cuba for the principal purpose of learning or practicing Spanish or attending general purpose lectures devoted to Cuban culture and contemporary life would not qualify for a specific license. A doctoral candidate in economics traveling to Cuba to undertake

research for a dissertation on the Cuban economy may qualify for a specific license for activities directly related to the research, but would not be authorized to stay an extra week in Cuba in order to attend a seminar on Cuban arts and crafts.

Subpart E—Licenses, Authorizations, and Statements of Licensing Policy

§ 515.522 [Removed and reserved]

3. Section 515.522 is removed and reserved.

4. Introductory paragraph (a) of § 515.528 is amended by adding the following before the colon: “, provided any payment to Cuba or a Cuban national is deposited into a blocked, interest-bearing account at a domestic bank”

5. Section 515.533 is amended by adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 515.533 Transactions incident to exportations to designated countries.

* * * * *

(d) This section does not authorize any exportation under General License GIFT, 15 CFR 771.18, except gift parcels that contain only food, vitamins, seeds, medicines, medical supplies and devices, hospital supplies and equipment, equipment for the handicapped, clothing, personal hygiene items, veterinary medicines and supplies, fishing equipment and supplies, soap-making equipment, or certain radio equipment and batteries for such equipment, as specifically set forth in § 771.18, and that otherwise comply with the requirements of that section.

6. Paragraph (g) of § 515.560 is amended by adding after the word “provided” in the last sentence thereof the words “that the travel is not aboard a direct flight between the United States and Cuba and” and by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 515.560 Certain transactions incident to travel to and within Cuba.

(a) *General license.* The transactions in paragraph (c) of this section are authorized in connection with travel to Cuba by:

(1) Persons who are officials of the United States Government or of any foreign government, or of any intergovernmental organization of which the United States is a member, and who are traveling on official business; or

(2) Journalists regularly employed in that capacity by a news reporting organization.

(b) *Specific Licenses.* Specific licenses authorizing the transactions in paragraph (c) of this section may be issued when extreme hardship is demonstrated in cases involving extreme humanitarian need to persons and their close relatives, or other persons living in the same household, who are traveling to visit close relatives in Cuba. Specific licenses may also be issued to persons demonstrating a compelling need to travel to Cuba for humanitarian reasons, for professional research and similar activities as defined in § 515.416, for clearly defined educational or religious activities, for activities of recognized human rights organizations investigating human rights violations, or for purposes related to the exportation, importation, or transmission of information or informational materials.

(1) For purposes of this section, the term *close relative* means spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, great grandparent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, nephew, niece, first cousin, or spouse,

widow, or widower of any of the foregoing. The term *close relative* also means mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sister-in-law, or brother-in-law.

(2) Nothing in this section authorizes transactions in connection with tourist travel to Cuba. Travel to Cuba that is characterized as falling within the criteria specified in paragraph (b) is prohibited unless specifically licensed.

* * * * *

7. The introductory text of paragraph (a) and paragraph (a)(1) of § 515.563 is revised to read as follows, and paragraph (c) is removed.

§ 515.563 Family remittances to nationals of Cuba.

(a) Specific licenses may be issued on a case-by-case basis authorizing remittances to a close relative of the remitter or of the remitter's spouse who is a national of Cuba and who is resident in Cuba or in the authorized trade territory, provided they are not made from blocked accounts. Such remittances will be authorized only:

(1) In circumstances where extreme humanitarian need is demonstrated, including terminal illness or severe medical emergency.

* * * * *

8. Paragraph (d) of § 515.564 is removed and paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 515.564 Certain transactions incident to travel to, from and within the United States by certain Cuban nationals.

* * * * *

(c) Remittances by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to Cuba or a Cuban national, directly or indirectly, for transactions on behalf of a Cuban national, are only authorized pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section when made for the purpose of enabling the payee to emigrate from Cuba to the United States, including the purchase of airline tickets and payment of visa fees or other travel-related fees. Such remittances may not exceed \$500, and, except for purposes of processing a letter of invitation or similar document on behalf of a Cuban national, may be transferred only after the Cuban national has received a valid visa issued by the State Department or other approved U.S. immigration documentation. Any amount remitted to Cuba directly or indirectly in conjunction with the processing of a letter of invitation or similar document must be deducted from the \$500 limit. Specific licenses may be issued to permit remittances by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to Cuba or a Cuban national, directly or indirectly, for transactions to facilitate non-immigrant travel by a Cuban national to the United States under circumstances where extreme humanitarian need is demonstrated, including terminal illness or severe medical emergency.

§ 515.565 [Amended]

9. Paragraph (b) of § 515.565 is removed, paragraph (c) is redesignated as paragraph (b), and the words "or (b)" are removed.

§ 515.566 [Amended]

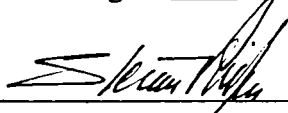
10. Section 515.566 is amended by changing the reference in paragraph (a)(3) from "this section" to "this part", and by amending paragraph (c)(4)(ii) by removing the words "exceeded

the annual ceiling on remittances to any one household or payee established in this section” and adding in their place “violated the terms of any authorization for remittances contained in or issued pursuant to this part”.

§ 515.569 [Amended]

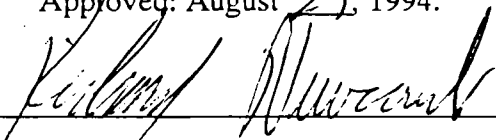
11. In § 515.569, the first sentence of paragraph (c) is amended by adding the words “or pursuant to” before “§ 515.563.”, and paragraph (d) is amended by removing the words “remittances authorized for the traveler’s household by § 515.563(a)(1) and”.

Dated: August 25, 1994.



Steven I. Pinter,
Acting Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Approved: August 25, 1994.



R. Richard Newcomb,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (Law Enforcement).

[FR Doc. 94-30??? Filed 12-??-94; ??:?? am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-F

Community Relations - Remittances and Charter Flights

People with questions about the new regulations regarding the stopping of remittances and charter flights to Cuba can obtain answers through the Community Relations Service (CRS) hotline in Miami at 305-536-4740.

As is always the case, people who have extraordinary humanitarian concerns and desire to apply for a waiver can also obtain information through the hotline.

Relaciones comunitarias - Envíos y vuelos comerciales

Las personas que tengan preguntas acerca de los nuevos reglamentos relacionados con la suspensión de envíos y vuelos comerciales a Cuba pueden obtener información a través del Servicio de Relaciones Comunitarias (CRS) en Miami llamando al 305-536-4740.

El Departamento de Justicia ha establecido esta línea para ayudar a la comunidad a entender las nuevas restricciones. Esta medida se ha tomado como un esfuerzo para ayudar a aclarar cualquier duda que tenga la comunidad cubano-americana de los Estados Unidos.

Como es siempre el caso, las personas que por razones extraordinarias de tipo humanitario deseen solicitar una excepción pueden también hacerlo llamando al mismo número.

Issue: With the announcement today of new regulations for remittances and charter flights, we need a system in place to deal with community concerns and questions through the weekend and into next week. It needs to be easily reachable, quickly.

Recommend we establish a "one-stop" shop to deal with concerns about what the meaning of the new rules and how people can apply for specific waivers for legitimate humanitarian waivers. Community Relations Service (CRS) already has a phone bank and information hotline which has been publicized to the community and on line.

Recommend that Treasury locate one or two officials at the CRS information hotline office to answer questions regarding the new regulations. The CRS Chief Conciliator, who has established a solid working relationship with local, state and community leaders, has offered office space and support with the phone bank.

ACTION/SET-UP

Before the press background at 1:30, Treasury should provide Q & A's to Tom Battle should calls be received today. At least one person from Treasury should be on scene in Miami today and remain through the weekend.

CRS will answer questions via the hotline phone bank from guidance provided by Treasury.

The Chief Conciliator will arrange briefings throughout the community and with state and local officials by Treasury to ensure the message is clear:

No remittances, no flights, but as is always the case extraordinary humanitarian concerns can be met with specific waivers.

CRS will either use the conference room at their facility for Treasury to process waivers or arrange with GSA for a processing sight (which would be publicized over the information line).

The CRS Information hotline should be released as part of the background brief. (CRS Information Hotline: 305-536-4740)

CRS Chief Conciliator:	Tom Battle
Office:	305-536-5206
Cell:	305-778-4822
Fax:	305-536-7363
Pager:	1-800-759-7243 #8733595

800 number

United States Information AgencyINFORMATION MEMO

August 22, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR:

B - Joseph B. Bruns
B - Geoffrey Cowan*Alexis Herman
Marc Halperin
Jean Baggett*

THROUGH:

B/C - Richard M. Lobo

FROM:

B/C - Rolando E. Bonachea

SUBJECT:

Radio Marti Coverage of Crisis in Cuba
Since August 18

Radio Marti has provided continuous coverage of US-Cuba policy pronouncements throughout the weekend as developments have unfolded regarding the Cuban migration crisis. This memorandum lists news and programming initiatives at Radio and TV Marti in response to the Cuban crisis as of COB August 18, 1994.

Both Martis have covered all press conferences by Administration officials. Radio Marti covered live with simultaneous translations President Clinton's mid-day press conference on Friday, August 18, as well as that of Attorney General Janet Reno's the preceding night.

•Radio Marti repeated President Clinton's statement on Cuban migration policy during the Friday press conference every 15 minutes on Friday, and every half-hour on Saturday morning.

•The four-point policy pronouncement announced by President Clinton on Saturday, August 19, has received major play time on Radio and TV Marti. Radio Marti repeated President Clinton's announcement every half-hour on Saturday afternoon and every hour on Sunday. Both stations continue to report on the policy pronouncement.

•Radio Marti's five and seven-minute newscasts on the half-hour and hour, respectively, were expanded to 10-15 minutes during the weekend to include more material regarding the change in US-Cuba policy, warnings against fleeing to Guantanamo Naval Base by the State Department, and about the horrors of crossing the Florida Straits, now known as "the corridor of death."

•Radio Marti aired the 500-odd list of names released by the Immigration and Naturalization Services of those being held at Krome Detention Center in South Florida.

AUG 22 '94 01:56PM

- TV Marti newscasts and all Radio Marti newscasts on the hour and half-hour are featuring the advisory by the State Department that those reaching Guantanamo Naval Base will not be granted automatic entry into the US. The Advisory urges Cubans to resort to the official channels to apply for immigration through the US Interest Section in Havana which will continue to process requests in an orderly fashion.
- Radio Marti has initiated a "*De Cubano a Cubano*" series of "man-on-the-street" interviews with Cuban-Americans in Miami pleading with their loved ones on the island not to leave.
- The "800" *Puente Familiar* telephone line is being disseminated on Miami and New Jersey spanish language radio as a public service announcement for Cuban-Americans to record messages to their families in Cuba. The production schedule is being expanded in order to air the messages daily in 15-minute and hour-long spots throughout the week.
- A series of news actuality reports in the voice of *Brothers to the Rescue* pilots describe the situation in the "corridor of death" in the Florida Straits, highlighting the number of empty rafts being spotted given the increased number of those fleeing. The pilots urge Cubans not to leave warning them that the probability of being rescued has diminished.
- A series of celebrity messages "*De Cubano a Cubano*" are being recorded for placement in magazine format programs and as fillers throughout the broadcasts. Arturo Sandoval and Mickey Rourke are among the celebrities featured. Gloria Estefan, Willy Chirino, Celia Cruz and other notable Cuban-American artists are being contacted.
- Weather reports have been expanded from feature length newscasts three times a day to all newscasts on the hour. The weather reports highlight the deceiving appearance of "calm" coastal waters in contrast to the turbulent seas encountered just miles from the coast in tropical weather conditions.
- Calls by church and community leaders and human rights activists against the dangerous escape by raft are being broadcast throughout the day.
- A special *Mesa Redonda* on Radio Marti will feature a roundtable debate on the significance of this policy change by the Clinton Administration.
- Reactions by South Florida opinion leaders to the policy pronouncement by President Clinton are being reported, offering explanations of the importance of avoiding another Mariel.
- Permission to interview detainees at the Krome Detention Center has been denied by officials there. Justice Department authorization is being requested.
- A special "News in Action" program was broadcast on Sunday and repeated Monday with President Clinton's policy announcement, comments by opinion leaders on the value of the policy.

•The drama of the escape on rafts is being featured in special segments on the "corridor of death." The recurrent theme on both stations is "no se tiren".

I have insisted that we keep the most profoundly important elements of the crime bill -- to keep it tough by putting 100,000 police officers on the street, building more prisons, putting violent criminals away for good, by making three strikes you're out the law of the land, and by other stronger provisions on sentencing. And we're going to keep it smart, with the sensible crime prevention programs that steer our kids away from drugs and from gangs and gangs, and give them things to say yes to.

The crime bill must ban handguns for juveniles and take assault weapons off our streets. Even though we've come under intense pressure from forces that will apparently say anything to take the assault weapons out of the bill, I have refused to do so.

Let's keep in mind what this crime bill is all about. It's about removing fear from our streets, our schools, and our home. Innocent Americans should not have to fear being preyed upon, as so many do today. Innocent children should not have to fear losing their childhoods, as so many do today. We owe it to the American people that do the work and pay the bills in this country to make sure that people who commit crimes get caught, that those who are guilty get convicted, and those who are convicted serve their time. We also owe it to them to do whatever we can to prevent crime in the first place. That's what the police and the prevention programs are all about.

That's why it is so important, and why I have worked so hard to make sure that do not turn this crime issue into yet another Washington partisan issue. This is a grass-roots mainstream nonpartisan issue, and so it should remain. It must be an American crime bill. We have worked hard on it, and I call upon Congress to pass it without delay.

Helen.

Q Mr. President, on behalf of all the press corps, we want to wish you a happy birthday. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Q And now -- (laughter) -- (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you could all do a lot to make it happy. (Laughter.) That is not a guilt trip; feel no pressure. (Laughter.) Thank you.

Q Mr. President, in the last 35 years we've had an embargo against Cuba and increased the economic burden on them. I understand that's why the refugees are coming in. What is the problem with taking a few small, albeit brave, steps to negotiate a possible movement toward democracy with Cuba? We've dealt with many communist countries through the last 35 years, and we're dealing with them now.

THE PRESIDENT: There aren't many left. I support the embargo, and I support the Cuban Democracy Act, which was passed in 1992. And I do not believe we should change our policy there.

The fundamental problem is, democracy is sweeping the world, democracy and freedom are sweeping our hemisphere. In the Caribbean alone, and in Central and South America and all of this region, there are only two countries now not democratically governed with open societies and open economies. The real problem is the stubborn refusal of the Castro regime to have an open democracy and an open economy. And I think the policies we are following will hasten the day when that occurs, and we follow those policies because we believe they are the ones most likely to promote democracy and ultimately prosperity for the people of Cuba.

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Q But that's not true of North Korea or China, and you're dealing with them every day.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the circumstances are different and I think our policy is correct.

Q Mr. President, recognizing that you're slowing down the process, do people fleeing Cuba still get automatic entry to the United States as political refugees if they're not criminals or ill?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q You're ending --

THE PRESIDENT: The people leaving Cuba will not be permitted to come to the United States; they will be sent to safe havens.

Q The people who reach here.

THE PRESIDENT: The people who reach here will be apprehended and will be treated like others. They will be -- their cases will be reviewed. Those who qualify can stay, and those who don't will not be permitted to. They will be now treated like others who come here.

Brit.

Q Mr. President, under the law it has always been clear that the Cuban refugees had a certain priority on staying here. The policy, of course, has been that anybody who got here got to stay. What restraints are you operating under in terms of the law in changing this policy? Or are you likely, sir, to be sued over this?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- let me -- I'm glad you asked that question in contradistinction to the one you asked right afterward. The Cuban Adjustment Act will continue to be the law of the land. But we are doing our best within that -- we will detain the Cubans who come here now, they will not simply be released into the population at large. And we will review all their cases in light of the applicable law, including the Cuban Adjustment Act.

Q Do you know how long it will take, how long --

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on how many there are, of course. And we don't know.

Andrea.

Q Can you give us some more details? Are these people going to be taken to Guantanamo? What kind of strain might this place on our naval forces, the Coast Guard? Already we're being told that drug interdiction is being cut back. And can you respond to criticism already from Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich? In particular, Mr. Gingrich said that your new policy is appalling, it's an example of mixed morality, and that he thinks it is illegal under the act.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first, let me answer the factual questions. The refugees, those who are fleeing, will be taken first to Guantanamo where we will seek safe havens for them. That is plainly not illegal under international law, nor do we believe it is illegal under the Cuban Adjustment Act.

Secondly, as to whether it is immoral, I just would say it is my belief that the American people and that the Cuban American people and the people of Florida -- but the people of the entire United States -- do not want to see another Mariel Boatlift. They do

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not want to see Cuba dictate our immigration policy. They do not want to see Mr. Castro able to export his political and economic problems to the United States.

Now, that is what is plainly being set up. We have gone through that once. We had 120,000 people sent to this country as a deliberate attempt -- not because they themselves initially wanted to flee; they were encouraged to flee, they were pushed out; we had jails open, we had mental hospitals open -- all in an attempt to export all the problems of Cuba to the United States. We tried it that way once. It was wrong then, and it's wrong now. And I'm not going to let it happen again.

Q Can you respond to that other question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's my answer to them.

Q What about the naval forces, the Coast Guard? Are they up to this -- will it affect drug --

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Coast Guard is plainly up to it. We may have to have a little more Navy support. I met with the Secretary of Defense this morning; we discussed it at length. He is confident that we can do what we have to do without undermining our fundamental mission.

Q President Clinton, previously you said that the crime bill was something that you supported, that you wanted to sign as it was. Now you're saying you can take 10 percent out of it. Why shouldn't the American people believe that there's still a lot of fat that can come out of it?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, anytime you start a -- I've never seen a bill that started new programs that you couldn't cut some and maintain its fundamental integrity. I said that crime bill was a strong and good bill as it was, and it was a strong and good bill.

But one of the things that happened in conference that has, I think, been largely overlooked is that in an attempt to get as much money as possible for police officers and law enforcement and for prisons and for border patrol, funds were appropriated or were authorized in the crime bill that came out of conference in an amount greater than we could provide in the trust fund.

Keep in mind, the great beauty of this crime bill is it's the first major program in American history that's being financed entirely by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy and taking all the savings from the federal government and putting it in a trust fund to help grass-roots Americans get better control over their own lives.

The practical impact of what we are doing by cutting 10 percent of this will be to be able to put everything that's left into the trust fund. So, in terms of real dollars, I believe there will be more money actually appropriated and spent for tough law enforcement and for police officers. And I believe that all the fundamental important things in the prevention strategy will be maintained at a very high level, and dramatically higher than now.

The principles of the bill are intact -- it's the biggest increase in police in the history of the country; it's the toughest increase in punishment in the history of the country; it's the biggest increase in prevention programs in the history of the country.

I am not a member of the Congress. They have to work out all the details. If they produced this bill out of the

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conference, I would have happily supported this, as I did the other one.

Q Wouldn't you just be getting into politics then, by accepting the original bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, that's one of those questions designed to spoil your birthday. (Laughter.) Because it's something else -- it's designed to confuse the American people about what really goes on up here.

The President is not a member of the Congress. The Congress made a decision that they had a bill that they all wanted. They accommodated the interests as best they could. It met all my fundamental criteria -- assault weapons ban, ban on handgun ownership by kids, tougher penalties, longer imprisonment, more prevention. So does this bill. This bill has the added virtue of being able to be fully funded in the trust fund that we are creating by reducing the federal government to its lowest size in 30 years.

And if, in fact -- let me just say, Rita -- if, in fact -- there has been no conference. If in fact, the conference proceeds along the lines that I generally believe it's going on, and it has the added virtue of some strengthening of the language which was put in involving this whole sexual predator issue -- so, in that sense, I think it is a fine bill that meets all the criteria, and it doesn't just gut the prevention programs, which I was determined to see not happen.

Q Mr. President, you say that you're not going to allow Fidel Castro to dictate U.S. immigration policy. But hasn't he just done that by forcing you to reverse three decades of a policy? And secondly, what do you say to Cuban Americans, especially in Florida, who feel betrayed by this change in policy?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I believe that most Cuban Americans want us to be very firm. The Cuban Americans that I know, without regard to their party, supported the Cuba Democracy Act, and they remember how awful it was for the United States when the Mariel Boatlift occurred. They remembered what it did in this country and how -- the feelings it engendered in this country. And I do not believe they want another Mariel Boatlift. And I do not believe we can afford to do that. And so my own view is that most Cuban Americans will support what we're trying to do and wish us to be firm.

I would remind you that the Attorney General, who is in charge or oversees the INS, who has done a lot of work on this and who will have a press conference, I think, when I finish to answer some of the details of this policy was the prosecuting attorney in Dade County. I talked to the governor last night at some length about this -- of Florida.

I think my own feeling is -- and I've talked to Cuban Americans, of course, exhaustively for years now, and we've been in touch with them and with the Florida congressional delegation. I believe this policy will have broad support. I will be surprised if it does not have broad support.

Q By telling Cubans basically to stay home and at least temporarily to stomach conditions there, does that make it incumbent on you to be more active in seeking to oust Castro?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what we are telling Cubans is that we have a provision for their coming to the United States through in-country processing. And at least as of this date, we have no evidence that the Castro has done anything to discourage Cubans from coming to the in-country processing, applying for the visas if

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they're eligible to come here, and getting them. That's what we're saying to them. That is, we do not have any evidence that would justify believing that that that process won't work in Cuba as it has in other places. And, indeed, the Castro government has encouraged Cubans to go down and apply to come here. But we don't object to that, that's the policy we have everywhere and that's the policy we should have there.

Q But doesn't that make it incumbent on you to unilaterally or multinationally press for the ouster of Castro in some way -- military, economic -- whatever?

THE PRESIDENT: The United States had done more than any other country to try to bring an end to the Castro government. We have done it through the Cuban Democracy Act. We have done it through the embargo. We have worked hard, often laboring almost alone, to that end. And we will continue to do that by whatever reasonable means are available to us.

Q Mr. President, one of your fellow Democrats in the Senate, Sam Nunn of Georgia, said yesterday that it would be months if not years before a health care reform bill is produced. And the Congressional Budget Office said that a possible moderate compromise didn't cost out. There's a growing feeling in Washington that this health care crusade is hopelessly bogged down in Congress at this point. What is your view of the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: That they should keep working at it; that if we don't move there's a chance that it won't happen at all. You know, the congressional timetable is often different from the American timetable. I mean, it took seven years to pass the Brady Bill and seven years to pass family leave.

But for 60 years people have acknowledged that not covering all Americans and having no system for dealing with the explosive costs and the inequalities in the health care system were a problem. They have reached a significant crisis stage here, with five million more Americans losing their health insurance in the last five years alone, with the costs exploding in the last 12 years. And I believe that the time has come to deal with this.

Now, Senator Nunn simply observed what I think is clearly a fact, which is that in the Senate there is unlimited debate and you can have unlimited amendments. But a lot of these issues do need to be worked through.

I think the comments Senator Kennedy and Senator Mitchell made today about the fact that this bipartisan group was at least attempting to work with them, and in the process of so attempting, finding out how hard it is -- it's easy to stand on the sideline and lob brick bats at these efforts, and quite another thing to produce your own effort. But their comment made me believe that there is still a chance that people will work together and resolve this. So I would say to them, keep working, keep working at it, because if you delay, you may lose it altogether.

Q Well, at this point, would you take something less than what Mitchell or Gephardt has proposed just to keep the process moving, since, as you say, if we don't get it now, we probably --

THE PRESIDENT: I think that, for one thing, that's not so easy to do, because as we've also seen from the studies of the Catholic Health Association and others, the so-called "something less" approach often does more harm than good; that when you just try to patchwork this, often you lead to more people without insurance and higher insurance rates.

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What I would say to you is, give the process time to unfold. I know for a you it's been going on a long time, since we first began to debate this a year and a half ago. I think for the American people, it's almost like the baseball season -- the pennant's just begun. I hope we can have the pennant in the other one, too, and the series. But I think we need to let this thing unfold a little more; I wouldn't prejudge it yet.

Q Mr. President, back to the crime bill. If the approach you're offering now, the changes you're offering now, does not produce enough votes to pass the bill, will you under any circumstances agree to sever the assault weapon ban for a separate vote in the House and the Senate?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't agree to that because I think it's a mistake. And let me say -- I don't want to overly comment on it, but let me try to describe what the problem is. The bill has already passed the House. But in the Senate, as you know, we could have 55, 56, 57, 59 votes for that bill in the Senate and it could still be filibustered. And we should not permit that to happen.

I also believe that there is a chance that this whole process in the last few days -- we may look back on this in a year or so and think that this was the beginning of an effort, again, in other areas to work in good faith across party lines. I have shown my good faith. I have taken the risk that all people take when they talk to people who are opposed to them of being asked the questions like Rita asked me. But in this town it won't work if we have American problems unless we try to reach out across party lines. A lot of these issues don't work like that.

So if we can work through this in good faith, my view is that we'll maybe be setting the stage to have more things like NAFTA, and the Brady Bill, and the education bills, and then this one where we can work together. So I don't believe we will have to do that, and I am against doing it. I think it would be a real error.

Q Mr. President, Fidel Castro has been very high on the list of American demonology because he is a national security threat. I think of the Cuban missile crisis; he would provide a base for the Soviet Union. That's all ended now. Do you foresee a form of government, democratic government, in Havana with free elections that includes Fidel Castro? Or is it a case that Castro must go before there's any normalization?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in any democracy it's up to the people to make their own decisions. The United States does not pick leaders or delete leaders for other countries; we let people make their own decisions.

I don't want to get into that. I think what we need is a movement toward democracy and a free economy.

Q Mr. President, when the legal defense fund was set up for you to handle the costs of defending against the litigation, Lloyd Cutler said he was intervening in that as Presidential Counsel because it threatened the presidency, these tremendous costs. Since then, the fund has decided it cannot legally solicit, leaving no explanation since then of, a, how will the money be raised to pay these bills and, two, in lieu of enough funding to do it, what other options do you have to protect the presidency from the threat that he was talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know the answer to that. I'll just have to let you ask Mr. Cutler that. I'm just trying to stay away from that whole issue of the fund, and I can't answer those questions.

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DRAFT: Attorney General's Statement - Increased Cuban Influx

8/18/94

To divert the Cuban people from seeking democratic change, the government of Cuba has resorted to ~~the~~^{an} unconscionable tactic of letting people to risk their lives by leaving in flimsy vessels through the treacherous waters of the Florida Straits.

Many people have lost their lives in such crossings. We urge the people of Cuba ^{to remain home and} not to fall for this callous maneuver.

I want to work with ^{all concerned} ~~Radio and TV Marti and with~~ ^{indep} the Cuban American ~~media~~ and community to make sure the message goes out to Cubans that putting a boat or raft to sea means putting life and limb at risk.

The Cuban government is not acting this way because of U.S. immigration policy. It is a desperate attempt to salvage a communist regime which has fallen victim to its own inherent rigidity and repression. An uncontrolled exodus from Cuba will do nothing to address Cuba's internal problems. The solution to Cuba's problems is rapid, fundamental and far-reaching political and economic reform.

Cuban Americans have recognized Castro's ploy and the word has ~~also~~ gone out that the U.S. will not tolerate boats leaving from South Florida as they did in Mariel -- in which 90% of the influx was a result of Floridians traveling to Cuba to get their relatives. To prevent this from happening again, the Coast Guard has mounted an aggressive public information campaign so people know that vessels that appear to be bound to Cuba may be stopped and boarded and may be seized. Individuals who violate U.S. law will be prosecuted in appropriate circumstances. As you know, one boat was seized last week and the boat crew is in detention.

We have been able to manage the ^{spill out} increased flow arriving from Cuba during the last several days in an orderly way and without disruption to the community. We have increased our INS and CRS personnel. 26 INS agents have been reassigned to Key West. More are on their way -- and within 24 hours a total of 86 agents will be specially assigned to manage

these cases. INS has additional personnel on call to respond if the need arises.

We have been ably assisted by voluntary agencies including United States Catholic Conference Migration Service and Church World Service and state and local officials.

Of the people who have arrived, 90% of the individuals have been settled with relatives in the United States. 75% in Florida -- and 15% in primarily New York and New Jersey. The 10% with no relatives in the United States are being placed outside of Florida.

We will continue to monitor and assess the situation and have intensified our work with other federal agencies to meet any requirements.

*She is law enforcement
not a policy advisor
for such*

*be able to
respond to all
circumstances*

THE WHITE HOUSE
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For Immediate Release

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

The Briefing Room

3:33 P.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: The Attorney General will make a brief statement and then be available to take your questions, as will Doris Meissner, who is the Commissioner of the INS; Mort Halperin, who's the Senior Director for Democracy here at the NSC; and Peter Tarnoff, who is Acting Secretary of State.

So, the Attorney General.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: For many years now, Castro, by his government -- his rigid, repressive government -- has created economic misery in Cuba. That can only be ultimately be resolved by broad-reaching democratic reforms. Once before he tried to export his troubles to this country, and we played his game. We're not going to play his game anymore. The problems of Cuba have got to be solved there by democratic reform, and we must not let this be used as a safety valve to keep the pressure off of him.

He has done this, recognizing that he is exposing people's lives to danger and creating terrible risk for human life, as he lets these people try to cross the Florida Straits just to be a safety valve for his problems. We cannot let that happen.

For those who are concerned about families, for those who are concerned about claims of real political asylum, we have in place in Cuba, and have had in place in Cuba for some time, in-country processing that can permit legitimate claims for asylum to be determined. Each year we admit almost 3,000 people pursuant to this process, and I think it is important for the community to know that this process is in place.

At the same time, there will be concerns about family reunification, and we want to work with all concerned to make sure that legal immigration is used as the process of achieving this goal.

We'd be happy to try to answer your questions.

Q Attorney General, there seems to be some confusion as to what happens to the Cubans after they've been detained if they reach U.S. shores safely. They're not allowed to be sent back to Cuba or outside of the United States. How long will they be detained for? Where will they be detained? Who's going to pay for all of this?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: They're going to be detained in appropriate facilities. What we want to try to do is address the immediate issue now of how we prevent this safety valve from being provided to Castro, how we all work together so that we don't play into his game that he perpetrated in 1980, while at the same time providing protection for those who try to cross the Straits by letting them know there is an alternative of legal immigration. We

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will properly process these people, provide health screening and appropriate facilities, and then, make judgments down the line.

Q And if I could just follow up -- all of this is consistent with the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act and it doesn't require any additional act of Congress?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That is correct. There is much misconception, I have discovered, about the Cuban Adjustment Act. Many people say that it has something to do with entry. It is not relevant to entry into this country. It provides that the Attorney General has authority to adjust status after somebody has been here for a year. And there is no intent, nor effort whatsoever to change the application of that act for those who have been here a year and want their status adjusted.

Q Could you be a little more specific about where the detainees will be -- will it be on the mainland, in your estimation, or elsewhere -- and how long they are likely to be detained before you make a determination of what to do with them?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: You're talking now about those who have come to this country and are being detained.

Q Admitted to the U.S. shores, that's correct.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Those that are currently being detained are being detained at the Krome Detention Center.

Q What about those who will be further detained under this --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: As we address the issue, if it becomes necessary, we will detain them. If Krome is not adequate, we will detain them in appropriate facilities.

Q How long do you estimate they'll be held?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, what we're trying to focus on now is an effort to prevent this safety valve from opening for Castro. We want to make sure that we take precautions to provide safety and security. We will address the other issues down the line.

Q So you don't know how long -- is that a fair statement?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That's a fair statement.

Q Representative Torricelli, who helped write the Adjustment Act, said there was an intent to the act to provide preferential treatment to Cubans, he said, and this goes against the intent of the act. And he declared it illegal, actually.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, what we're trying to do is address the issue of entry. And with respect to the Immigration and Naturalization Act, anybody that illegally enters the country may be detained. What we're trying to do is look at this in a humane way, provide protection for Cubans who are the subject of Castro's problems so that they don't come to this country or try to come to this country and risk their lives. There is no intent to punish them. It is an intent to make sure that they use the processes as fairly as possible. And those processes would include, if they came to this country, the opportunity for adjustment.

Q So this is a change in policy. It's not a change in a legal sort of status?

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ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: There is no change in legal status. The policy -- the Immigration and Naturalization Act specifically provides that somebody illegally entering this country may be detained. And we're applying that law, but at the same time making sure that all those in Cuba understand that there is a process in place in Cuba for seeking political asylum; that almost 3,000 people per year are granted political asylum and come to this country through that process; that that is a much safer process and one that should be pursued.

For those that have concerns for their family, again, we want to work with all concerned. Those who may want to proceed, we want to work with them to address the issue of family reunification, but do it according to legal immigration. It has always been our policy to try to pursue legal immigration and take appropriate steps vis-a-vis illegal immigration.

Q When you made the -- when the President made the decision and you made your announcement quite late, there was the thinking that mainly it was because there was a fear of more people coming from Cuba and you wanted to stop that. But also, I understand there was a concern that the Governor of Florida had made it known that he was going to stop the buses, not allow these people to be in Florida, to come on shore. And I just wonder, to what degree was some kind of concern that his not allowing people off buses played in your decision to go ahead and speak out last night?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We had extensive conversations with the Governor and other country and city officials over the day. We were sure that our processes were working correctly. Our decision, again, doesn't relate to any situation that the Governor was concerned about. It relates to what we can do to prevent Castro from using this as a safety valve and to ensure safety for those who seek to come, but who really should use the processes that are currently available in Cuba for legal immigration.

Q What are the prospects, Attorney General Reno, for those reaching U.S. shores to, as the current situation allows, be released once you have -- if you have relatives here -- once you ascertain that they don't have a criminal record or some communicable disease?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We will address those issues down the line. The most important point right now is to not play into Castro's game, not let him dupe us as he did in 1980, but address the issue through legal immigration and right now ensure safety and protection for those who would try to cross the Straits.

Q But is it likely, if they do achieve the circumstances under the current policy, is it still likely that they're going to be released?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, we will address that issue. But our primary concern right now is to make sure that we do everything we can to address the humanitarian concerns. You cannot help but look at these people, some elderly women -- I just saw a picture in the Miami Herald of a 91-year-old woman who crossed the Straits -- you see children coming ashore. And then you see a picture of an empty raft. There are other ways to do it.

We can make sure that Castro's problems are solved at home. We can ensure the safety of the people who want democratic reform in Cuba. We can do it through legal immigration. And that is our message. We will address the other issues as the days go by.

Q How are Cuban refugees being treated differently than Haitian refugees? What's the difference here, or is there one?

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ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: In this instance both are being provided protection and safe haven. But with respect to refugees, what we have got to understand and address is that those seeking political asylum -- in this situation, we're looking at migrants -- they are being treated the same way in that both are -- we are trying to address the humanitarians concerns and make sure that their safety is protected.

Q So are you saying that Cubans should ultimately return? Are you hoping that Cubans will decide on their own to go back to Cuba when they realize that --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, we're not talking about -- that would be a decision that they would make. We're not discussing repatriation. We're discussing what we can do to provide safe haven for those that would risk their lives.

Q Would you just tell us, bureaucratically, what is done to change the policy of parole that has been in effect? Is it an executive order, or is it just a memo or a directive? And secondly, how will Cuban Adjustment apply? Will it apply differently to refugees that are interned or detained in the United States and those that are detained in Guantanamo should they be held for a year?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, what we want to do is to make sure that the Cuban Adjustment Act applies as it should to those who are in this country for a year; that we are not changing the application of that.

Q What about at Guantanamo?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we're trying to do with respect to the statement -- the government has the authority to detain anybody who illegally enters this country. And we are exercising that authority, again, for the purpose of making sure that Castro knows he's got to solve his problems at home. We don't want to let up on the pressure. We want to make sure that he understands that democratic reform is the way to achieve the results.

Q By what means is the policy of paroling them routinely been changed? Is there an executive order, or how is that -- just word of mouth?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I've just made a direction that we talked and the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service and I have advised of our policy.

Q According to Cuban officials, the thousands of hours broadcast from South Florida with the fact that you are giving very, very little visas -- legal visas -- is creating for these explosions of this content. What do you say to that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, what we have tried to do is address the issue of immigrant visas in a prompt and orderly way, and we will continue to do everything that we can to address legitimate concerns for legal immigration.

Q Ma'am, does this Cuban Adjustment Act give more benefits to the Cubans than it does to the Haitians and the Mexicans?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The Cuban Adjustment Act refers just to Cubans, and it provides that the Attorney General has the authority to adjust their status after they've been in this country for a year.

Q Many people, Ms. Reno, are you prepared to declare an immigration emergency in Florida so that funds can be released to the local community?

MORE

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We want to work with all concerned, and I have talked with both Mr. Avino, the County Manager in Dade County; with the Governor's Office. We will be working with them in every way possible to understand the costs that will be borne by the states and to take appropriate action.

Q Many people are confused about what will happen to the Cubans being sent to Guantanamo Bay. Is it possible they will stay there for months? And once they're there, will they be sent afterwards back to the United States or back to Cuba or to a third country? Has that been decided?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: This will probably be relatively short-term at Guantanamo as we talk to other countries, and we have had discussions with other countries that would permit us to provide safe haven and security and safety in those nations for these people.

Q Given the confusion over what's actually in the Cuban Adjustment Act, et cetera, what are the criteria that would enable someone who is going through a status check to be admitted into the United States? Is it different for Cubans than it is for other refugees? And then, for those at Guantanamo or Krome or wherever who do not meet those criteria, what do you do with them?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Doris, where did you go?

MS. MEISSNER: The criteria for Cubans coming into the United States are the same as for other groups -- if they arrive here illegally, they are subject to detention. As Ms. Reno said, the Cuban Adjustment Act only comes into play a year after people are here.

Q So they have detention and possible deportation?

Q So is that the well-founded fear of persecution?

MS. MEISSNER: That -- no. Well-founded fear of persecution is part of the Refugee Act which is effected through an application for political asylum. Applications for political asylum can be filed by any nationality group. Cubans generally have not filed applications for political asylum because the Cuban Adjustment Act has provided them a vehicle for adjusting their status after being here for a year.

Q Is that what they have to show now as they go through the status here?

MS. MEISSNER: As Ms. Reno said, we're trying to deal with this step by step. And the most important step right now is to prevent the emergency flow. So we'll be answering those questions in the next several days.

Q If that's what the law is --

MS. MEISSNER: But that is the law, yes.

Q Attorney General Reno, what I don't understand is I've heard you say several times here that what you're trying to focus on is not letting Fidel Castro use an outflow of refugees as a pressure valve. Yet, what I keep hearing you say -- indicating is that what we're doing is, one way or the other, we're taking on all of Fidel Castro's refugees. Whether we're going to store them in Guantanamo Bay, or Krome, or, eventually, Homestead, or anything along those lines, why aren't we still supplying him a relief valve to send out all the refugees he wants to for us to take care of and house whether in safe havens or somewhere else?

MORE

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The general conclusion is that through this process that people know that they cannot come to this country. It will deter illegal immigration, and we want to focus on the legal immigration, the processes of which are in place.

Q -- refugees being considered political or economic refugees?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I didn't hear --

Q The Cubans that are coming in, are they considered political or economic refugees?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think that's -- again, an example of how we sometimes use terms that cause confusion. The right to asylum, or the opportunity for asylum comes about as a result of political persecution. And there are standards that have to be met in order to prove that. And when we talk about asylum and when we talk about refugees, that's what we're talking about.

Q In trying to ward off this outflow of Cubans, aside from providing the incentive of legal immigration processing in Cuba, you're also intensifying the interdiction effort. What is your expectation as to how effective interdiction is going to be with beefed-up Navy and Coast Guard vessels? Are they going to reduce the number of Cubans who reach our shores to a bear trickle, or is it going to be 50-50? What does the administration expect to accomplish with this beefed-up interdiction effort?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we hope to do is, again, make sure that we provide the protection for those who have risked their lives, and that we will make sure that we do everything possible to reach anybody who tries to make the trip so that they can be assured that they will reach safe haven.

Q But if I were a Cuban today setting off on a raft, what would be my odds of ending up in Guantanamo as against ending up in detention in the United States?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The odds of ending up in Guantanamo are going to be very, very great. The odds of ending up in the United States are going to be very, very small.

Q How about deportation -- is that an option?

Q Up until now, have you -- do you have any figures on how many of these illegal landings by Cubans who have, up until the current surge in Florida, say, for a year, and what generally happened to those people? They were not detained, is that correct?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That is correct.

Q And do you have any idea how many you got per year?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We have those figures and we'll be happy to try to provide them for you.

Q Cubans would be put in third countries, pending what? Forever, or pending their absorption by those countries? What is the point of putting Cubans in third countries?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we're trying to do for those that feel that they need safe haven, that it's just not a matter of letting Castro use them as a means of eliminating the pressure, that those that need safe haven, that we will provide it temporarily at Guantanamo, and then work with third countries to provide the safe haven in appropriate countries.

MORE

Q There have been reports out of Miami that Castro is opening the AIDS wards. Can you tell us whether there is any indication that he is encouraging people with AIDS to come here, and whether you have any plans for dealing with that, and whether somebody who is HIV positive can get acceptance --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have not heard that. But what we want to, again, do, as a prosecutor in Miami for 15 years, I watched what happened when Castro, amongst the many wonderful people that were a part of Mariel, how he dumped the dregs of his mental hospitals and his prisons into boats. And what we want to try to do is to make sure that people have safe haven, but that Castro understands that we are not going to play into his hands.

Q Would the rule against going out with boats to bring them in apply in any way to this unit -- that searches for the refugees in airplanes and then directs assistance to them from the Coast Guard and others?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we are going to do is as each case -- if we have any instance of a United States flag vessel bringing people into this country illegally, we're going to look at it, and if we have probable cause to believe that the laws of this country have been violated, we're going to take steps to seize the vessel and appropriate steps to prosecute.

Q The airplanes that are marked with dyes and call in the Coast Guard and identify the location of boats and rafts --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Those would certainly be -- what we are concerned about in this whole process is providing humanitarian assistance to people. And clearly when Brothers to the Rescue is trying to do the same thing we are in terms of making sure that people don't die in the Gulf Stream, we want to work with them in every way we can.

Q General, you told your weekly news briefing yesterday morning that you saw no basis for changing the Cuban resettlement policy. Are the issue that you're expressing now things that developed yesterday after talking to Governors Chiles?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, it developed before talking to Governor Chiles. At 9:30 p.m. I had a press availability, and at 11:00 p.m. I had the briefing at the National Security Council meeting, and that's when we began to discuss new efforts.

Q A question for Peter Tarnoff. I want to get back to the safe haven thing. Haitians are kept in safe havens pending the ouster or resignation of the regime in Haiti. Are Cubans who are going to be in safe havens in Guantanamo or elsewhere pending the downfall of Fidel Castro?

ACTING SECRETARY TARNOFF: Well, I think that we are looking to other governments, several of whom have responded positively over the course of today, who have indicated to us that they would be willing to take Cubans into safe havens. As the Attorney General indicated, we have not decided what the processing or the status will be in those safe havens as yet. But we can report that governments have shown an interest in accommodating Cubans in the safe havens.

Q And you say you won't send these people back to Cuba?

ACTING SECRETARY TARNOFF: The Attorney General said that repatriation is not being considered.

MORE

Q Not under any circumstances? What about those who don't qualify?

Q Which governments --

Q Attorney General Reno, what about those who do not qualify for political asylum?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the things that we have tried to do is in these last years is to provide some means of returning those people whom Castro -- those prisoners and those people who were under criminal charge or under criminal sentence. We will, of course, continue those efforts.

Q So you would return those who don't clearly --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We're going to continue those efforts, of those that were really that Castro dumped from his prisons and have been detained. But in the instance of what we have seen so far, we have not seen that. You can't say for sure, but everything that we've seen indicates that there would be nobody that would be repatriated.

Q Are you taking steps to increase the capacity to do in-country processing of asylum and family applications in Cuba?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We will try to -- in any instance that we have been able to meet -- as I understand it, there is no backlog in the application now. And my hope is if people will understand that that process is in place, we're going to be prepared to match the needs so that there would not be any undue delay.

Thank you.

Q Attorney General, what governments have agreed?

Q What governments, Mr. Tarnoff, have agreed?

ACTING SECRETARY TARNOFF: We're going to let those governments make their own announcement.

END

3:55 P.M. EDT

INCREASED CUBAN INFLUX -- Questions and Answers -- 8/18/94

Q: How many people have arrived?

A: 547 yesterday and 339 on Tuesday.
2,233 -- total since august 1st.

Q: When are the numbers arriving from Cuba going to constitute an emergency?

A: We have been able to handle the people in an orderly and efficient way -- and expect to be able to do so. We will respond as appropriate to any changes -- which we are carefully monitoring.

Q: We have heard that Governor Chiles will be asking the President for an emergency declaration today. Do you think that is warranted?

A: As I said, we have been able to handle the increased influx in an orderly way and expect to be able to continue to do so. If an emergency declaration is necessary, I will not hesitate to recommend one.

Q: Governor Chiles and others in Florida do not appear to be comfortable with the federal government's response. What are you doing to address their concerns?

A: We have been in touch with the Governor and have apprised him of the additional resources which have been sent and of our ability to handle the influx which we have received to date.

Q: The Governor is calling for increased assets in the Florida straits. Is this something which is being considered?

A: We are going to take appropriate measures. But the status and location of particular assets is nothing something I am going to discuss.

Q: How come you haven't prosecuted anyone for the ferry hijacking?

A: That matter is still under investigation and the suspect is in detention.

Q: Are you prepared to give Florida money from the Immigration Emergency Fund for costs associated with this influx?

A: The fund exists for purposes of handling an emergency and reimbursing states for requested assistance. Any application that Florida submits for such reimbursement will be considered.

Q: Isn't Florida going to have to bear the costs for this influx?

A: Cubans resettled by CRS are eligible for federal refugee benefits which include Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance through program operated by the Department of Human Services.

In addition, the State of Florida receives targeted assistance grants to help cover educational, medical costs, and social costs to the state for resettlement.

Q: What kind of medical and background checks are the people receiving now?

A: They are being fingerprinted and photographed and a given a preliminary medical check.

Q: They are not being checked for TB and HIV?

A: That has not been our practice.

Q: Has CRS ever handled as large a case load before.

A: Yes. They are experienced at this -- at running family shelter and resettling. They have resettled 13,000 Haitians in one year.

Q: In light of the disturbances reported this week at GTMO, are you expecting any demonstrations in Miami over the disparate treatment of Haitians.

A: CRS is working with the local community to address their concerns and try to lower tensions.

Q: Castro has complained that legal immigration channels need to be opened. What if any steps are you taking to do that?

A: We repeat that the problem is not a US immigration problem but rather problems in Cuba. The government has failed to the economic and political needs of its people. We have always supported orderly immigration from Cuba and other countries in the world.

Q: What kind of steps are under consideration?

A: Since 1984 we have held periodic talks with the Cuban government on migration issues. As the result of those talks, we have established an in-country refugee system. We support family reunification. We would expect this process to continue.

Q: Are you considering providing safe haven -- or putting up a Naval Blockade.

A: We will take all necessary measures to prevent another Mariel and will consider appropriate options.

Q: What do you mean by appropriate measures?

A: These matter touch upon our fundamental national interests and it would be inappropriate to discuss these options at this time.

Q: What about the criticism that the Coast Guard is providing a taxi service for Cubans who want to leave?

A: The US Coast Guard is fulfilling one of its primary missions -- safety of life at sea. The U.S. cannot stand by and watch people drown.

Q: How about the Cuban Adjustment Act. Isn't that magnet for the people?

A: Migration is always influenced by pull and push factors -- the push being by far the dominant force. As long as the Cuban government fails to meet the needs of its people, Cuban citizens will continue to flee -- even by risking their lives.

Q: How come you are resettling Cubans and are keeping Haitians at GTMO?

A: There are different responses to different circumstances. We have no agreement with Cuba as we do with Haiti to return people.

Q: Could you consider safe haven for Cuba.

A: As I said before, it would not be appropriate for me to discuss this.

Other questions:

Q: What efforts are being taken to improve conditions at GTMO?

A: The military has called in resources to provide additional education and recreational activities for the Haitians to allow them to more productivity use their time. CRS and UNHCR and a large number of representatives from voluntary agencies are also at GTMO for the purpose of improving the activities at the camp and to lessen Haitians frustrations.

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Q But the state apparently feels that it is right now to grant funds under this new immigration emergency fund that exists.

ATTY GEN. RENO: The state had already made -- had already applied, and we have reviewed that application with the state.

Q Other than the danger in making the trip, what motive would Cubans have for not trying to make it to the United States?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I think they should value their life and I think that they should explore the processes of how they come to this country if they feel that they are in any way being persecuted in Cuba, how they come to this county according to appropriate procedures.

Q Those procedures, of course, would be applying for status in Havana or in Cuba. Is there any thought being given to increasing the number of INS personnel to handle those applications?

ATTY GEN. RENO: We are constantly reviewing that situation to make sure that we're properly staffed.

Q A moment ago, in response to the questions about --

Q Could I follow that up?

Q Excuse me.

Q Do you think you're properly staffed there now? There's something like only 4,000 a year that come that way.

ATTY GEN. RENO: I have asked Doris Meissner to constantly review what we're doing, and she gives me regular reports.

Q You gave your thoughts a moment ago about the burden in response to that question about emergency funding and the releasing of monies. Is it your contention that what some people have called now in effect a slow-motion Mariel is a manageable situation at this stage -- 200, 300, 400 a day?

ATTY GEN. RENO: As I indicated, INS and the CRS are processing the cases. They have the situation under control. They are able to resettle and relocate people with their families to -- they have been able to provide transportation working with the voluntary agencies for

those people who have families in other states and they are making provision to relocate people who do not have families outside Florida. So the situation is under control. I've talked with people who have been visiting at the Catholic Charities center making sure that there is no bottleneck and that it is being processed. And again, the state has received in fiscal year -- will receive in fiscal year '94 \$44 million to address costs through regular appropriations. We're going

to continue to work with the state, as we have indicated to all states who have felt an immigration pressure to try to do whatever we can to address that issue.

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P.08

Ing. Ernestino Abreu
Colegio Ingenieros Agronomos
2750 Southwest 128th Avenue
Miami, FL 33175

Dear Mr. Abreu:

Agustin de Goytisolo, Esq.
Cuban American National Council
601 Brickell Key Drive, Suite 501
Miami, FL 33131

Dear Agustin:

Mr. Sam Verdeja
F.A.C.B. - The Miami Herald
One Herald Plaza
Miami, FL 33132

Dear Mr. Verdeja:

Mr. Jose Urrechaga, CPA
Asociacion of Contadores Publicos
Cubanos en el Exilio
c/o Grau & Co.
21 Southeast First Avenue
Sixth Floor
Miami, FL 33131

Dear Jose:

Mr. Jorge Abril
Latin Builders Association
780 Northwest 42nd Avenue
Suite 603
Miami, FL 33126

Dear Mr. Abril:

Mr. Guarione M. Diaz
Cuban American National Council
300 Southwest 12th Avenue
Second Floor
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Mr. Diaz:

Mr. Jorge Mas Canosa, Chairman
Cuban American National Foundation
7300 N.W. 35th Terrace
Miami, FL 33122

MEMORANDUM TO: MORT HALPERIN
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FROM: SUZANNA VALDEZ
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: INS TALKS IN NY / GUANTANAMO CAMP

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1994

I. INS TALKS

The current INS bilateral talks have created a lot of speculation and rumors in south Florida. Regardless of their outcome, we should immediately devise a plan of action to inform our friends in south Florida and the Cuban-American media. This is an opportunity to reiterate to the Cuban American community that the President stands by his commitment of not re-negotiating the lifting of the embargo until there are free and fair elections in Cuba.

I suggest that we prepare a media campaign with only ten community leaders in south Florida who have supported us thus far. Once we receive information from the State Department on the outcome of the talks, we will prepare a list of talking points, from our perspective, and contact our supporters in south Florida. They will then be prepared to participate in local radio, television and newspaper interviews with accurate information from the administration. If immigration talks result in substantive immigration agreements, then this campaign will be imperative to clarify the community's concerns. In either case, the key to handling the situation will be to disseminate accurate and extensive information in an expedient manner.

II. Guantanamo Camp

As of today, we have received a dozen calls from community leaders in South Florida alleging that there are rumors that the human rights of the detainees in Guantanamo are being violated. We have heard rumors such as sick children not receiving medical care, sexual assaults, etc. When the callers are pressed for names, they have stated that it's only gossip and cannot provide details. The handling of detainees in the Guantanamo camp is going to play a key role in reducing the amount of misinformation that is being circulated. By now, the south Florida community is informed that Cubans in the Guantanamo camp will be detained indefinitely. The issue at hand is now focused on the quality of life in the camps.

Although the Cuban American community would prefer to have the detainees resettled with their families, they have been supportive of the President's policies. The community will continue to be supportive as long as the detainees are not deported back to Cuba, and as long as the detainees live under tolerable circumstances.

We will continue to receive requests from Congress, media and the Cuban American community

to visit the camps. We must ensure that the living conditions are acceptable by American standards. (Note: It is extremely important that every step we take to improve the living conditions for Cubans be done for Haitians as well. The Congressional Black Caucus, the African-American community and the media have emphasized this concern.)

The Community Relations Service is the agency under the Department of Justice that is responsible for the handling of detention camps for Cubans and Haitians. They are currently monitoring and handling the hotline for family information as well as dealing with the media and public relations in south Florida and Guantanamo.

Last week, Joe Velasquez made a recommendation to establish a community-based task force to monitor the living conditions at Guantanamo. I would like to expand on this idea.

I see two possible options :

1. The CRS sub-contracts with a well established civic/social services organization in south Florida to oversee the camps. This agency should not be a voluntary agency (VOLAG) that is normally involved in the resettlement of refugees. This could be misconstrued as the beginnings of the resettlement effort which we have so vehemently denied. I suggest if this is the option that we choose, that we contact Dr. Guarione Diaz, Executive Director of the Cuban American National Council. This organization is a well respected civic/educational organization, well-equipped to handle these types of efforts. They have in the past administered and run half-way houses for Cuban detainees throughout the United States.

2. The idea of a community task force has very strong possibilities. I suggest that we name a task force of civic leaders in south Florida that will consist of no more than eight people. This group would serve for a period of three months, to be extended if necessary. They would serve as an advisory board to the Executive Director, who would be hired and supervised by the Director of CRS.

The Executive Director would operate out of Guantanamo and act as the Social Services director, i.e., direct liaison and oversee all of the needs of the alien population. The director would fly to south Florida on a weekly basis and report directly to the task force on the living conditions and special needs of the population. The task force would then prepare a list of recommendations for the Attorney General to be shared with the President. This task force will be named by the Attorney General.

It is important that those named to this task force be recognized and responsible in south Florida for their civic involvement and contribution and not for their political profile. This would lend credibility to the social and humanitarian role they would play as part of the task force. Their role should be defined to oversee only the living conditions and social needs of the detainees, not to be confused with advocacy efforts on behalf of resettlement and changes in policy.

III. Communications

We are presently granting access to the Guantanamo camp based only on a first-come, first-serve basis. The administration should ensure that in every visit, well-balanced views are represented. This is necessary to give the American public the best opportunity for an objective account of the activities in the camps. This effort to balance the visits should also apply to members of Congress, the media and civic and social groups. To avoid misinformation, we must have a well-coordinated media strategy to provide accurate and up to date information to our supporters with access to media in South Florida.

It is important to note that Cuban radio stations in south Florida have a fervent following, with the understanding that Cuban opinion in south Florida is formed primarily by what is reported on the radio. Due to lack of access, these radio stations are currently reporting inaccurate information. An example of this occurred last week when a Cuban American journalist who has been blatantly against the Administration, went to Guantanamo and taped over a dozen detainees who sounded desperate and highly emotional. Radio stations in south Florida have played these interviews repeatedly on the radio over the weekend. If more accurate information had been available, a more balanced report would have been given.

There should be a daily communications meeting headed by Calvin Mitchell at the NSC that would include top level media staff from DOJ, INS, CRS, State, DOD and USIA to coordinate the daily spin and message to project a well coordinated effort on behalf of the administration. Additionally, CRS would give a daily update on campsite activities.

cc: John Hogan
Department of Justice

Joe Velasquez
Office of Political Affairs

Jeff Weiss
Department of Justice

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

U.S. TO EXPAND LEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CUBA

The Clinton Administration will today begin implementing a series of new initiatives designed to greatly expand legal immigration from Cuba to the United States.

These measures are estimated to increase by thousands the numbers of Cubans who can both immigrate and visit the United States.

According to _____:

We are doing everything possible to discourage Cubans from making dangerous boat voyages in unseaworthy vessels. Ending resettlement for interdicted boat people is one element in that policy. A second element is to make it as easy as possible for Cubans in Cuba to pursue legal U.S. immigration alternatives. The actions we are taking today will greatly expand such alternatives and will be followed later this week with additional measures that will further augment our ability to process Cubans legally.

The actions announced today include:

1. Public interest parole for non-current beneficiaries of immigrant visa petitions.

This measure will permit family members to sponsor their Cuban relatives for U.S. immigration if they have approved immigration petitions that have not yet become current. This is similar to action taken by the U.S. under the Vietnamese Orderly Departure Program, when we authorized such action to discourage dangerous boat departures from Vietnam.

2. Facilitating non-immigrant travel to the United States by Cubans.

To the extent that U.S. law will allow, we want to make it as easy as possible for Cubans to visit relatives in the United States if they wish to do so. We believe the possibility of such visits will diminish for many the sense for many Cubans that the only way for them to have contact with their relatives in the United States is to flee by boat. We are deploying additional consular officers to Havana to augment our capacity to process such cases.

3. Expand the criteria for application to the in-country refugee program in Havana.

We will be expanding our criteria for this program to include any Cuban who appears to have a credible claim to refugee status and are augmenting personnel in Havana to handle increased flow.

4. Extension of the Private Sector Refugee Processing Initiative

Under this program, Cuban refugees in third countries have been able to come to the United States under private sponsorship of the Cuban-American community. Under current program criteria, however, only those who arrived in third countries by ___ are eligible for the program. To discourage boat departures from third countries, we will extend the cut-off date for this program to ____.

PM. 2:54

17:35

safe haven con

hurricanes

medical care

camp access

communications

access by
both Haitians

mtg. on new radio broadcasts

1:30 PM. 393

6. Haitians are staying
out

More Cubans to
Panama

More Haitians

more to Panama on the 1st

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Over the past two weeks, the government of Cuba has taken actions to provoke a mass exodus to the United States. These actions have placed thousands of Cuban citizens at risk in small boats and rafts, and have had a direct impact on our national interest.

I want to thank the Cuban American community for their courageous restraint in not taking their own boats to Cuba to fuel the exodus, and thank the officials of Florida -- Governor Chiles, the congressional delegation, the people from Dade County and others -- who have worked so closely with us.

Yesterday, I announced steps to counter Castro's efforts to export his problems by provoking an exodus. Today, I'm announcing additional actions consistent with the Cuban Democracy Act to limit the ability of the Cuban government to accumulate foreign exchange and to enable us to expand the flow of information to the Cuban people.

Specifically, cash remittances to Cuba will no longer be permitted. Family gift packages will be limited to medicine, food and strictly humanitarian items; and transfer of funds for humanitarian purposes will require specific authorization of the Treasury Department. Second, the only charter flights permitted between Miami and Havana will be those clearly designed to accommodate legal immigrants and travel consistent with the purposes of the Cuban Democracy Act. Third, the United States will use all appropriate means to increase and amplify its international broadcasts to Cuba.

The solution to Cuba's many problems is not an uncontrolled exodus, it is freedom and democracy for Cuba.

The United States will continue to bring before the United Nations and other international organizations evidence of human rights abuses, such as the sinking of the tugboat "13th of March." Meanwhile we will pursue this course with vigor and determination.

END

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Office of the Spokesman**

For Immediate Release**August 27, 1994****STATEMENT BY MICHAEL MCCURRY, SPOKESMAN****CUBA: Migration Talks**

The United States and Cuba have agreed to hold another round of bilateral migration talks. It was agreed to meet in New York shortly, as soon as travel arrangements are completed. These talks represent a continuation of discussions of migration issues which began in 1984. The talks will deal with issues related to the promotion of legal, orderly and safe migration. As in the past, our delegation will be headed by a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

This will be the 12th meeting for these talks over the past ten years. The meetings are alternately held in the United States and Cuba. The last session was in Santiago, Cuba, in December 1993.

ARA PRESS GUIDANCE
August 27, 1994

UPCOMING TALKS WITH CUBA

Q: The Cubans had said that they would only talk to the U.S. if the embargo, Radio and TV Marti and the Guantanamo Naval Base would be discussed. Is this still the case?

A: No. We have proposed to continue our on-going migration talks to discuss specific migration issues and they have agreed to this. We have made it clear we will not discuss other issues. We will keep these talks focused on migration.

Q: What specific subjects does the USG want to discuss?

A: We want to pursue our long standing desire to promote legal, orderly and safe migration between our countries.

Q: Who initiated these talks?

A: The Cubans have accepted our proposal to hold talks focused solely on migration issues. These talks alternate between Cuba and the United States and it is our turn to host them.

Q: Does the USG believe it can truly confine these talks to migration issues only?

A: Yes. We have made it clear that the only appropriate subject matter for migration talks are migration issues.

IF ASKED

- PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASST SECY MICHAEL SKOL
WILL LEAD DELEGATION
 - MEETINGS HAVE OFTEN BEEN HELD AT THE DAS LEVEL
 - MOST RECENT MEETING WAS AT WORKING LEVEL
IN DEC. 1993
-

Q: Does the USG see these talks as a step toward more a comprehensive dialogue with Cuba?

A: No. Again, these talks will only deal with migration matters. We have stated repeatedly that we will not hold talks on broader issues until the Government of Cuba begins the process of rapid, fundamental, and far reaching political and economic reform necessary to address the needs of its people.

Q: Should Guantanamo and the safehavens fill up during the talks, how will the talks be affected?

A: We believe we will have adequate space for Cuban migrants. We believe that our message about the dangers of taking flimsy rafts into the ocean and our firm determination that individuals interdicted at sea will be taken to safehaven in Guantanamo or in other countries will lessen the number of people taking this dangerous action.

ONLY IF ASKED

Q: I understand over 200 people safehavened in Guantanamo have asked to be returned to Cuba. What will happen to them?

A: We have notified the Cuban government of the desire of more than 200 Cuban citizens to voluntarily return to Cuba. We are providing the Cuban government with information on these individuals, and would expect to arrange their voluntary return in the very near future.

Q: Has this happened before?

A: Yes. Over the years a number of Cuban citizens have asked to be voluntarily returned to Cuba and they have been.

SEARACCA 14864, 08/27/94.

US Policy toward Cuba Speaking Points

Background

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Main Themes

1. The President has made it clear: the answer to Cuba's internal problems are economic and political reform and Castro will not be allowed to export Cuba's problems to the United States. Undocumented migrants from Cuba will not be allowed to enter the United States.
2. Castro's safety valve of encouraging Cubans to risk their lives at sea is despicable and unacceptable. The U.S. will do everything within its power to ensure that Cuban lives are saved and that people stop risking their lives. Several people have already died and several are still unaccounted for as some rafts are found empty.

Secondary Themes

1. The best hope for democracy in Cuba is for the Cuban people to stop risking their lives and to stay in Cuba and work toward a democratic future.
2. Cubans who desire to reach the United States should not risk their lives at sea but rather take advantage of the legal immigration available through the US Interest Section in Havana.
3. There has been no change to the economic embargo placed on Cuba. The President's actions to stop remittances and reduce charter flights are increasing pressure.

For Press Interviews: Call Tara at 456-9271 w/questions.

Messages for 26 August:

1. IS THE POLICY WORKING: Since the President's announcement over 11,000 migrants headed for US shores have been picked up from sea by the Coast Guard and Navy and on their way to or already at Guantanamo. The Coast Guard and Navy have enough resources to deal with the flow of migrants in a safe and orderly fashion. With Navy support the Coast Guard will soon begin diverting cutters back to other routine missions.

2. WHY ARE FLOWS STILL SO HIGH: We anticipated it would take time for Cubans to fully understand, through our message and more importantly our actions, they would not reach the US by setting out in rafts. Cubans in Guantanamo have already said on news reports that if they'd fully understood where they would end up they would not have risked their lives.

3. BUT WILL CUBANS ULTIMATELY BE ALLOWED ENTRY TO THE US: No they will not. The pictures speak for themselves. We are expanding the capacity at Guantanamo and finalizing plans for safe havens in other countries. We are acting quickly to back up our words.

4. WON'T CUBANS DETAINED IN THE US BE RELEASED INTO THE COMMUNITY: The Cubans will be accorded their rights under US law. We have no plans to release them and that is why they are still in detention. They have the opportunity to apply for asylum.

5. ARE WE NEGOTIATING WITH CASTRO TO CUT A DEAL: No we are not. Since established by President Reagan in 1984 there have been continuing talks with Cuba regarding migration issues, these may be the talks some people are misinterpreting as negotiations.

6. ARE WE GOING TO REPATRIATE CUBANS: We are not planning nor discussing forcibly returning Cubans to Cuba. It has always been US policy that if a Cuban comes to America and then decides he or she wants to return, we would allow them to return. There has been no change to that policy.

*Kula Rdgwr
347-4747 H*

Treasury - 1 person on the ground + 1 Public Affairs (Political)
maybe not setting up permanent

PSA to notify community of hardship because availability
"is legal to send \$ to Cuba w/o license"

- Community Relations from DOJ

- 1 - one stop shop Steve - FEMA through INS center
- 2 - Transcript from Press Conf. at 11:00 Lula/Jeff.
- 3 - Orchestrating talking points for 11:00 am

} INS - CRS
Treas
DOC

March -

community program -

Charter Flights - only news + US Gov officials.

Texas -

* legislative to inform all political players.

* SV call community leaders.

Cuba

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Messages for 29 August:

1. WHAT ARE WE NEGOTIATING WITH CASTRO THIS WEEK: We are not opening negotiations with Castro. What the State Dept press release mentioned was the continuation of bilateral migration talks which began in 1984; the issues deal only with the promotion of legal, orderly and safe migration. The meetings are alternately held in the US and Cuba; the last session was in Santiago, Cuba in December 1993.

2. ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE TRIP IS NOW SAFER FOR CUBANS WITH COAST GUARD CUTTERS JUST 12 MILES FROM HAVANA: This is a serious misrepresentation. Most Cubans are picked up by the Coast Guard around 30 to 40 miles from Cuba after one to two days at sea - this is still an extremely dangerous and life threatening risk.

3. AREN'T THE LOWER NUMBER OF CUBANS BEING INTERCEPTED JUST DUE TO WEATHER: Although bad weather has deterred some Cubans from risking their lives, it's unclear how much of the decrease is due to weather since the lower numbers seen by the Coast Guard on Thursday and Friday would have left Cuba one to two days before the weather deteriorated. We believe word is getting around in Cuba that those Cubans who leave are not getting to the United States.

4. WON'T YOU SOON RUN OUT OF SPACE TO PUT CUBANS:

No, not only has the flow decreased but we also have several hundred Cubans in Guantanamo already asking to return to Cuba. (specific numbers and process for return will be forthcoming). Guantanamo is being increased significantly and additional safe havens for Cubans and Haitians will be announced this week. We are confident that we will have enough space for both groups.

5. WHAT ABOUT THE CALLS TO BLOCKADE CUBA: There is no discussion of a blockade. As Secretary Christopher said on Sunday, we are not giving any consideration to a blockade of Cuba.

Here's what we are doing: The measures announced by the President to prohibit remittances and significantly reduce charter flights are adding pressure on the Cuban government and were instituted Friday. These measures are an indication of our seriousness in cutting off money which is used by Castro to support his failed economy.

6. WHAT'S BEING DONE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED TO SEND MONEY TO CUBA FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES: As is always the case, documented humanitarian problems will be accommodated on a case by case basis. The Treasury department has opened a temporary office in Miami to help people with specific needs. Packages with food and medicine and other humanitarian items can still be sent.

(Treasury has more details.)

7. IS THERE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT OUR CUBA POLICY: Not at all. There is complete agreement in the administration that the problem in Cuba is Castro and his failed policies and there is complete agreement that the economic embargo must continue and that added pressure, as initiated by the President last week, will help in the movement toward democratic reform.

Cuba Migration Situation
Summary
Friday August 26, 1994
12:00 Noon

1. The number of Cubans intercepted has decreased in the last day and a half (uncertain if due to weather or message). At the time of the meeting the Coast Guard was dealing with a hijacked Cuban ferry; the situation will be handled through a standard PD27 interagency process.
2. Krome detention facility could physically handle more people if necessary but it is at preferred maximum capacity (just under 700). Yesterday, 49 Cuban detainees were transported to the Port Isabel, Texas detention facility.
3. There are approximately 12,000 Cubans (and 14,500 Haitians) at Guantanamo. Capacity at the base will be 32,000 tomorrow and 40,000 by Sep 5.
4. Anticipated safe haven readiness: Suriname around 3 Sep; Panama around 3 Sep (2500 capacity the first day and additional 2500 every 5 days); TCI 5 Sep (2500 capacity).
5. USPHS has agreed to do medevac's as long as funding is identified; INS will review and discuss with PHS. Disciplinary procedures are being reviewed by INS and the camp management subgroup.
6. The military communications link will go on line as planned Sep 1 and NOT be announced. If there are public questions it should be clear that the link has nothing to do with the current situation and has been in the works for about one year.
7. Radio broadcasts into Cuba are anticipated to begin next week. Remittance and charter flight regulations will be announced today at 1:30 P.M. and a hotline will be run by CRS with Treasury support.
8. By COB today, agencies should provide input to Eric Schwartz (456-9351) regarding the legal immigration options paper.
9. State will develop a paper summarizing the outreach program to other countries and their reactions/support of our efforts.

1. Treasury today is issuing the regulations to complement the decisions the President announced last Saturday.
2. The regulations will prohibit remittances from Cuban Americans to relatives on Cuba.
3. As always, those with very serious humanitarian problems can apply for a specific license.
4. Cuban Americans will no longer be permitted to take charter flights to Cuba to visit relatives.
5. Charter flights will continue at a reduced level but only for those who are licensed by Treasury to travel to Cuba.

082694

US Policy toward Cuba Speaking Points

Background

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Main Themes

1. The President has made it clear: the answer to Cuba's internal problems are economic and political reform and Castro will not be allowed to export Cuba's problems to the United States. Undocumented migrants from Cuba will not be allowed to enter the United States.
2. Castro's safety valve of encouraging Cubans to risk their lives at sea is despicable and unacceptable. The U.S. will do everything within its power to ensure that Cuban lives are saved and that people stop risking their lives. Several people have already died and several are still unaccounted for as some rafts are found empty.

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1. The best hope for democracy in Cuba is for the Cuban people to stop risking their lives and to stay in Cuba and work toward a democratic future.
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For Press Interviews: Call Tara at 456-7291 w/questions.

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To Discuss on Call:

Cubans taken to Texas (method of transport).

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Orleans, LA.)

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States and Cuba have reached agreement in the migration talks in New York. This agreement requires the Government of Cuba to take effective measures to prevent unsafe departure of Cuban citizens. In addition, the Cuban government agreed that arrangements for those Cubans who have recently left and wish to return can be made through diplomatic channels.

The United States has agreed to admit at least 20,000 Cubans from Cuba per year under existing authorities. Additionally, the U.S. estimates that approximately 6,000 Cubans currently on the visa waiting list will be admitted into the U.S.

The President, who directed that that these talks on migration issues take place, is pleased at their outcome. "This agreement, when carried out, will help insure that the massive flow of dangerous and illegal migration will be replaced by a safer, legal and more orderly process," the President said.

#

9/9/94

U.S. Cuban Migration Talking Points

- By direction of the President, the INS talks were limited to migration issues only.
- The United States and Cuba have reached agreement on migration issues. This will be announced shortly in New York.
- Cuba has agreed to prevent the irregular and illegal departure of its citizens to the United States. Their efforts will be humane.
- They have also agreed to accept those Cubans (who left Cuba since mid-August) and who have asked to return voluntarily. The Cuban Government has indicated that there will be no retaliation against those who return .
- The United States has agreed to accept 20, 000 Cubans per year from Cuba under various provisions of U.S. law.
- Additionally, **this year** the United States will admit Cubans who currently are on the "visa waiting list" (we estimate this number to be about 6,000).
- These two figures added together come within our visa ceiling established by the U.S. Congress for Cuba.
- The United States will determine eligibility according to applicable U.S. law. The standard review process includes medical screening and sponsorship provisions..
- Those Cubans who are in detention camps and do not ask to return to Cuba voluntarily will not be processed to enter the U.S. but will remain in safehavens.

MEMORANDUM TO: **ALEXIS HERMAN**
 Office of Public Liaison
 MORT HALPERIN
 National Security Council

FROM: Suzanna A. Valdez

SUBJECT: Radio Marti Coverage of Crisis in Cuba
 since August 18

DATE: August 21, 1994

Radio Marti has provided continuous coverage of US-Cuba pronouncements throughout the weekend as developments have unfolded regarding the Cuban migration crisis. This memorandum lists news and programming initiatives at Radio and TV Marti in response to the Cuban crisis as of COB August 18, 1994.

Both Martis have covered all press conferences by Administration officials. Radio Marti covered live with simultaneous translations President Clinton's mid-day press conference on Friday, August 18, as well as that of Attorney General Janet Reno's the preceding night.

- Radio Marti repeated President Clinton's statement on Cuban migration policy during the Friday press conference every 15 minutes on Friday, and every half-hour on Saturday morning.
- The four-point policy pronouncement announced by President Clinton on Saturday, August 20, has received major play time on Radio and TV Marti. Radio Marti repeated President Clinton's announcement every half-hour on Saturday afternoon and every hour on Sunday. Both stations continue to report on the policy pronouncement.
- Radio Marti's five and seven-minute newscasts on the half-hour and hour, respectively, were expanded to 10-15 minutes during the weekend to include more material regarding the change in US-Cuba policy, warnings against fleeing to Guantanamo Naval Base by the State Department, and about the Horrors of crossing the Florida Straits, now known as "the corridor of death".
- Radio Marti aired the 500-odd list of names released by the Immigration and Naturalization Services of those being held at Krome Detention Center in South Florida.
- TV Marti newscasts and all Radio Marti newscasts on the hour and half-hour are featuring the advisory by the State Department that those reaching Guantanamo Naval Base will not be granted automatic entry into the US. The Advisory urges Cubans to resort to the official channels to apply for immigration through the US Interest Section in Havana which will continue to process requests in an orderly fashion.

- Radio Marti has initiated a "De cubano a cubano" series of "man-on-the-street" interviews with Cuban-Americans in Miami pleading with their loved ones on the island not to leave.
- The "800" Puente Familiar telephone line is being disseminated on Miami and New Jersey Spanish language radio as a public service announcement for Cuban-Americans to record messages to their families in Cuba. The production schedule is being expanded in order to air the messages daily in 15-minute and hour-long spots throughout the week.
- A series of celebrity messages "De cubano a cubano" are being recorded for placement in magazine format programs and as fillers throughout the broadcasts. Arturo Sandoval and Mickey Rourke are among the celebrities featured. Gloria Estefan, Willy Chirino, Celia Cruz and other notable Cuban-American artists are being contacted.
- Weather reports have been expanded from feature length newscasts three times a day to all newscasts on the hour. The weather reports highlight the deceiving appearance of "calm" coastal waters in contrast to the turbulent seas encountered just miles from the coast in tropical weather conditions.
- Calls by church and community leaders and human rights activists against the dangerous escape by raft are being broadcast throughout the day.
- A special Mesa Redonda on Radio Marti will feature a roundtable debate on the significance of this policy change by the Clinton Administration.
- Reactions by South Florida opinion leaders to the policy pronouncement by President Clinton are being reported, offering explanations of the importance of avoiding another Mariel.
- Permission to interview detainees at the Krome Detention Center has been denied by officials there. Justice Department authorization is being requested.
- A special "News in Action" program was broadcast on Sunday and repeated Monday with President Clinton's policy announcement, comments by opinion leaders on the value of the policy.
- The drama of the escape on rafts is being featured in special segments on the "corridor of death". The recurrent theme on both stations is "no se tiren".

Joe Velasquez

Pager: 1-800-946-4645

#109-7243

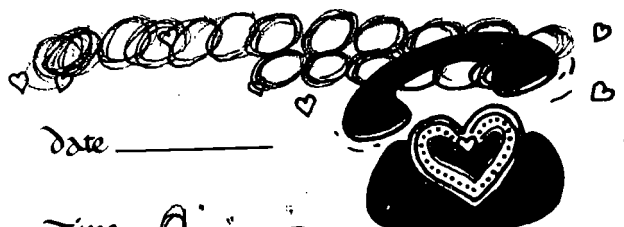
For your cellular, arrive
in Miami + press
~~*~~ 18 - send.

9/9/94

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(refugio seguro)



Date _____
 Time ~~Gas~~ - 305-538-
~~Arz~~ ~~perin~~ - 9056
 To _____
 From _____
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 ♥ please call _____
 message _____
 Rodriguez
 Aragon

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Luisa Garcia Toledo
 former pt. refugee

Guarivene Diaz -
 Mons. Roman
 Carlos Arbelkaya
 Cesar Odio
 paul Gja

JMC

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 Cesar Odio

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Maria Alias Rothman

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**OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
THE WHITE HOUSE**

Alexis M. Herman, Director
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(202) 456-6218

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

DATE: Aug 29/94

Number of Pages (Including Cover) _____

TO: Wula Rodriguez

FAX NUMBER: 202 205 0792

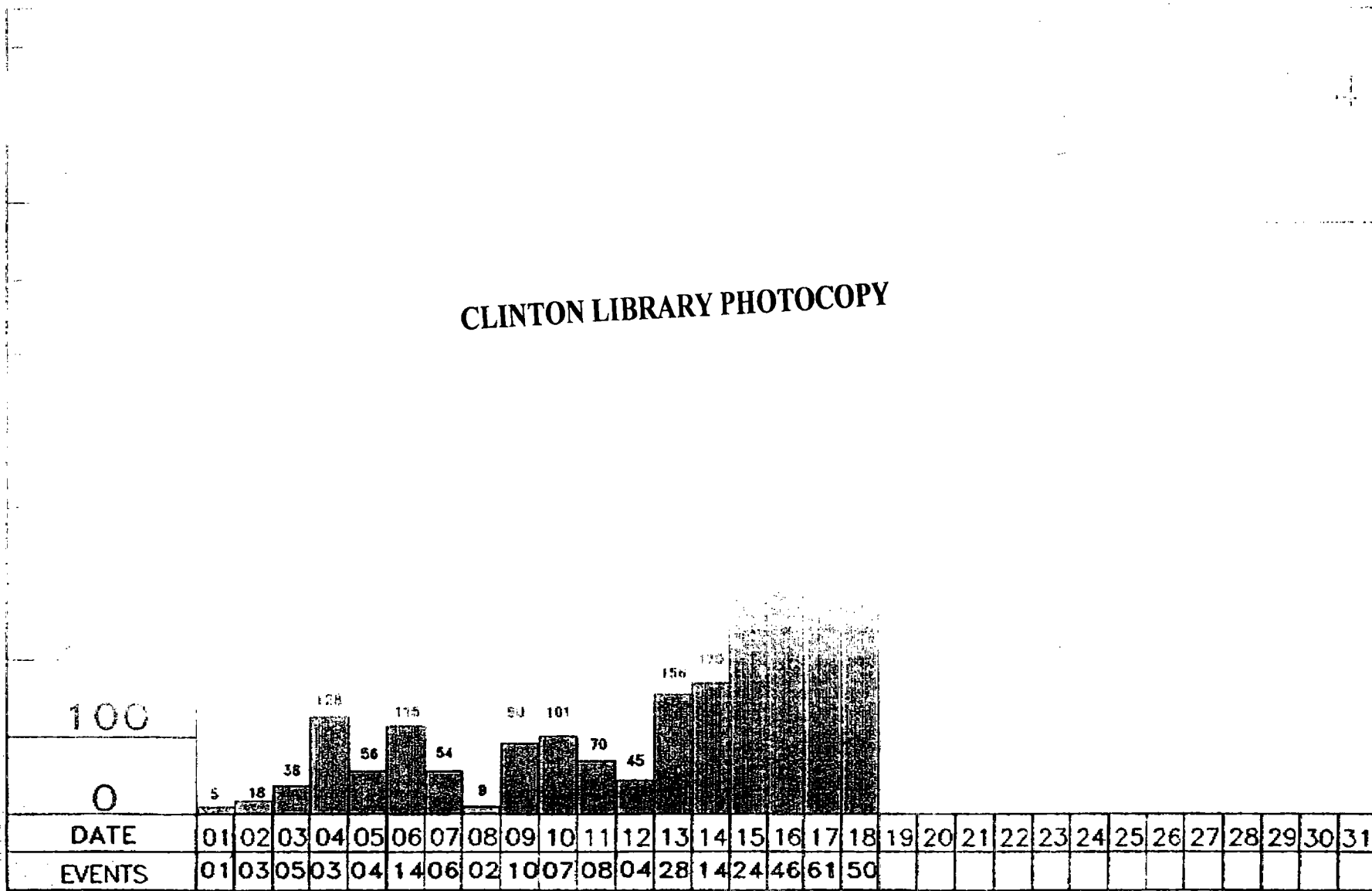
OFFICE NUMBER: 456-5179

FROM: Raul Perez-Henze

*******COMMENTS*******

Wula: Please call me when
you receive this. Is today's
info and the Regs.
I am also updating the list
that I will fax later today
Raul

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AUGUST 1994