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Folder Title:

Cuba File 1995 [1]

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. memo	Richard Nuccio to Vice President re: Update on Cuba policy (2 pages)	06/13/1995	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Public Liaison
Suzanna Valdez
OA/Box Number: 9445

FOLDER TITLE:

Cuba File 1995 [1]

2016-0920-F

jm1907

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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Cuba File '95

Cuba File '96

CUBA

February 13, 1996

TO: RM
FROM: MH

Rep. Menendez is reaching out to Harold Ickes to request a private meeting with the President to discuss his Cuba policy. The Congressman has never had an opportunity to meet privately with the President to discuss his views and concerns.

Rep. Menendez is willing to support "waiver" language for Title III of the bill, providing that the Administration supports the House passed bill. It is also our understanding that the Republicans, including Senator Dole, Rep. Diaz Ballart & Rep. Lehtinen will support this.

Rep. Menendez is also concerned about the October 6 Presidential Guidelines. It has become increasingly apparent in recent weeks that Castro will use the new regulations to accommodate only those travelers who suit his interests, including potential business partners. The intent of the regulations was to promote interaction with Cuban NGOs not promote business deals with Gillette, Time Warner, etc...

Rep. Menendez is also concerned about the enforcement of the embargo. He has met with Tony Lake, Nuccio, and Mr. Ickes in an effort to express his concerns at the highest levels. Only recently did the Administration finally open the OFAC office in Miami -- which Menendez publicly praised the President for his commitment to the embargo.

End



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Minority Business Development Agency
Washington, D.C. 20230

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

TO: Suzana Valdez

FAX NUMBER: 456 6218

OFFICE NUMBER: _____

FROM: JOAN PARROTT-FONSECA
ELIO MULLER
RUDY FUENTES
ROBIN GREER
JO JOHNSON
CHUCK MELLEY
LESLIE PAYNE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
14TH & CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W.
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

OFFICE NUMBER (202) 482-5061
FAX NUMBER (202) 501-4698

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 3

MESSAGE: _____

WAIVER

The President may waive any and or all provisions of Title III of this act if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the waiver of the provisions of Title III of this act serves the national security interest of the United States, and the President certifies that events have occurred that cause Title III of this act to impede the furtherance of democracy in Cuba.

The above proposed waiver is boiler plate National Security waiver language adapted to title three factual scenarios. It would grant to the President absolute ability to waive the enforcement of the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1995" more commonly known as the "Helms Burton Bill". Several trial balloons have been sent into the Republican proponents that indicate that they are willing at this time to support allowing the inclusion of such waiver language. This language is supported by the Cuban American Democrat friends of the White House, Congressman Robert Menendez of New Jersey, Congresswoman Ileana Ross Lenthinan, and Congressman Lincoln Diaz Balart of Miami, as well as the Cuban American National Foundation.

Congressman Robert Menendez who is a strong democrat supporter of this legislation would like to be the primary proponent of this compromise language. Indicators are that the Republican proponents would be willing to allow him to broker this compromise on their behalf.

The President is scheduled to be in the district of Congressman Menendez on Thursday, February 15, 1996. The Congressman is hoping to be able to discuss this matter with him at that time.

JULY 95

BLIND WORK
ASSOCIATION, INC.
BINGHAMTON
NEW YORK
SINCE 1979

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

JUNE 95

BLIND WORK
ASSOCIATION, INC.
BINGHAMTON
NEW YORK
SINCE 1929

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

WEEKS OFFENSE
THE OPPENHEIMER F. PORT

Did Castro turn over terrorist?

Did Cuban President Fidel Castro help deliver one of Latin America's most wanted terrorists to Argentina? Exiled Cuban writer Norberto Fuentes, a former darling of the Cuban regime's intelligentsia, is convinced that's the case.

Fuentes quotes cashiered Cuban Gen. Patricio de la Guardia — still jailed in Cuba — as having told him shortly before his 1989 arrest that de la Guardia and executed Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa had helped train Argentine terrorist Enrique Gorriaran Merlo, the confessed killer of former Nicaraguan strongman Anastasio Somoza.

The training was done behind Castro's back, according to Fuentes. Argentine officials add that when Gorriaran Merlo's rebel group attacked Argentina's military barracks of La Tablada in 1989 — in an attack that left 39 dead — the Cuban regime was infuriated, because Castro was trying to improve Cuba's relations with Argentina's young democracy.

"That's one of the best-kept secrets of the Ochoa/de la Guardia trials and executions," Fuentes said. "The Ochoa/de la Guardia group had been establishing independent contacts with Latin American revolutionary groups."

We will soon know more. Fuentes will tell the full story of the Cuban connection with Gorriaran Merlo in his new book, *In the Jaw of the Wolf*, to be published by Norton in early 1996.

Which country is the largest single donor of humanitarian aid to Cuba? Surprise, surprise: the United States.

Since the Clinton administration began speeding up licenses for private humanitarian aid to Cuba in 1993, more than \$100 million in food and medicine has been approved, up from an average of \$1 million a year in the previous two decades. Most of the government-approved aid has been disbursed, or is under way, U.S. officials say.

"That makes the American people the largest single donors in the world," we are told by Richard Nuccio, President Clinton's top adviser on Cuba. "If one adds the money the Cuban-American community is sending to Cuba [estimated between \$300 million and \$500 million a year], the United States already accounts for about 20 percent of Cuba's economy."

A population-growth basket case: Nicaragua. While virtually all Latin American countries are succeeding in slowing down population growth, Nicaragua is going in reverse.

Nicaragua's population is growing by 3.8 percent a year, up from an annual average of 2.8 percent in the 1980s, according to a little-noticed Inter-American Development Bank chart.

The reason, according to experts: The war is over, and people are making more babies. Sounds great, if it weren't for the fact that the economy is not growing along — at least not as fast.

Argentine Consul in Miami Juan Carlos Kreckler will be given a one-way ticket to Norway if President Carlos Menem's aides advocating closer ties to Cuba have their way, Argentina's daily *Ambito Financiero* reports.

Kreckler would be appointed ambassador to Norway and replaced by an official close to Alberto Kohan, the senior Menem aide reported to have engineered Argentina's recent rapprochement with Cuba. Responds Kreckler: "Not true. I'll be in Miami for a considerable time and have been assured so by the Foreign Ministry."

Go to Taiwan. A Paraguayan delegation visiting international financial institutions in Washington, D.C., in search of funds for a congressional building received this kindly suggestion, "Why don't you go to Taiwan and ask them?"

It wasn't a joke. Diplomatically isolated Taiwan is eager to increase its influence abroad and has already paid for several congressional buildings around the world.

TV - MARTI - MIAMI OFFICE

*For
to
Argentina
please*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

CONFIDENTIAL - Use the Miami Office

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

TBF:
RECENT
CUBA

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT ON CUBA

THE PRESIDENT: I want to speak with you today about my Administration's plans to press forward with our efforts to promote a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. A little more than a month ago, I took steps to stop the dangerous and illegal flow of Cubans attempting to enter the United States by sea. I want to report to you on the results of these steps and why I believe it was the right thing to do. But first, let me be clear: our commitment to a better future for the Cuban people remains as strong as ever.

Throughout our hemisphere, a powerful wave of democracy is bringing new respect for human rights, free elections and free markets. Thirty-four of the 35 countries in this region have embraced democratic change. Only one nation resists this trend: Cuba.

Cuba's system is at a dead end -- politically, economically and spiritually. The Castro regime denies Cubans their most basic rights. They cannot speak freely. They cannot organize to protest. They cannot choose their own leaders. At the same time, economic collapse threatens the well-being of every man, woman and child in Cuba.

The pressure of our embargo and the withdrawal of Soviet support have forced Cuba to adopt some economic measures of reform in the last two years. We haven't seen that before. But economic change remains slow, stubborn and painfully inadequate. The denial of basic rights and opportunities has driven tens of thousands of Cubans to desperation.

In the summer of 1994, thousands took to treacherous waters in unseaworthy rafts, seeking to reach our shores; an undetermined number actually lost their lives. In response, I ordered Cubans rescued at sea to be taken to safe haven at our naval base at Guantanamo and, for a time, in Panama. But this could not be a long-term solution. Last fall, I ordered that the young, the old and the infirm and their immediate families be admitted to our country. Thousands entered the United States in this way. Still, that left tens of thousands of young men at Guantanamo who were becoming increasingly frustrated and desperate. Senior United States military officials warned me that unrest and violence this summer were likely, threatening both those in the camps and our own dedicated soldiers.

But to admit those remaining in Guantanamo without doing something to deter new rafters risked unleashing a new, massive exodus of Cubans -- many of whom would perish seeking to reach the United States. To prevent that situation and to settle the migration issue, I took action. The Cuban rafters who were brought to Guantanamo last summer will be admitted to the United States, except those found to be inadmissible under U.S. law. Those

Cubans rescued at sea while illegally trying to enter the United States will be taken back to Cuba. Under our generous program of legal immigration, 20,000 Cubans from Cuba will be allowed to enter and reside in the United States every year from now on. And we will continue to provide assistance to Florida to help resettle those Cuban migrants.

I know that many of you have questions about aspects of this policy. Yet, the simple truth is that there is no realistic alternative. We simply cannot admit all Cubans who seek to come here. We cannot let people risk their lives on open seas in unseaworthy rafts. And we cannot sentence thousands of young men to live in limbo at Guantanamo.

Our new policy is working. Since its beginning, on May 2nd, few Cubans have been intercepted at sea. We cannot know how many lives have been saved by the deterrent effect of this policy. But consider this: in May of last year, some 700 Cubans were picked up and many others were lost at sea. Our new policy can help to avoid uncontrolled migration and it's already saving lives.

At the same time, we are making every effort to protect those at risk in Cuba. We will not return rafters who we believe would suffer reprisals back in Cuba. The U.S. Interests Section in Havana is carefully monitoring those sent home, visiting each of them individually to ensure they are not harassed. And, thanks to our legal migration programs, over 15,000 Cubans have been approved to enter the United States since September, 1994 as immigrants, parolees, and refugees -- that is three times more than in any previous year.

In short, the actions we took address the serious humanitarian problem at Guantanamo, deter illegal and unsafe migration, protect political refugees and expand opportunities for legal admission from Cuba. They serve our national interests.

Regularizing Cuban migration also helps our efforts to promote a peaceful transition to democracy on the island. For too long, Castro has used the threat of uncontrolled migration to distract us from this fundamental objective. With the steps I have taken, we are now able to devote ourselves fully to our real, long-term goal.

Our policy is rooted in the Cuban Democracy Act, which I endorsed some three years ago and which subsequently was passed the Congress with bipartisan support. Consistent with the Act, the United States will maintain the economic embargo against the Cuban regime. This is an important way to promote change in Cuba, and it will remain in place until we see far-reaching political and economic reform. As provided in the Act, if Cuba does take steps in the direction of meaningful change, we are also prepared to respond with our own carefully calibrated responses.

The Cuban Democracy Act also calls on us to support the Cuban people in their struggle for democracy and economic well-being. We believe that reaching out today will nurture and strengthen the fledgling civil society that will be the backbone of tomorrow's democratic Cuba. We will continue to help Cuba's democratic opposition, and the churches, human rights organizations, and others seeking to exercise the political and economic rights that should belong to all Cubans.

Throughout the Americas, dictatorships have given way to democracy. They are following the path of reconciliation and forgiveness preached by Cuba's first Cardinal, Jaime Ortega, during his recent visit here to the United States. Cuba will follow this course of its neighbors. With the support of the American people and their representatives in Congress, we can move toward our common goal of a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. I hope that it will be my privilege as President to welcome a free Cuba back into the community of democratic nations.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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The Cuban American Constituency

- The Cuban-American constituency represents 7 to 10% of the Florida electorate. Although most require or use social services that can be attributable to Democratic party, they tend to vote on what a candidate says on Cuba policy not how he/she stands on social issues.

Strategy

It would be wise to wait before commenting on our Cuba policy, in case more deals are struck with the Cuban government. Once this is settled, we can begin working on rebuilding some Cuban-American support.

- *Polling.* Conduct polling in at least two intervals, three months apart to establish the true mood of the constituency (silent majority). This will help us analyze the extent and location of support for our policies in the community.
- *Repatriation Policy.* If overall Cuba policy is not to change (i.e., no softening of the embargo), then we can return to the community and begin to make the argument that by returning openly disenfranchised Cubans back to the island, we are putting an enormous amount of pressure on the regime to enact policies that will satisfy a frustrated population that now has no escape valve to the U.S.. So, in fact, our repatriation policy adds pressure to the regime which is what the community says it wants.
- *Cuban Immigration.* Immigration opponents need to be reassured this agreement ends the threat of another uncontrolled Cuban mass migration. The Administration must show that this measure was enacted to take control of our borders vis-a-vis Cuba and that although Cubans will be coming to the U.S. (in large numbers), it will be done in a legal, safe, orderly fashion that will allow resettlement throughout the country, minimizing impact on any one state.
- *Clinton Platform.* Sell the Clinton platform and how it helps lower-income families. While this may be a long shot, it will be important for us to at least to try to move the argument away from the Cuban issue. It may reinforce our position with our supporters younger Cuban-American voters who seem to be less motivated by Cuba issues than their parents.
- *Money Issues.* These measures have to be explained as money saving. By divesting ourselves of GTMO migrant operations, the DoD (and U.S. taxpayers) save more than \$1 million dollars each day, plus an additional \$100 million earmarked for camp improvements.

Specific Strategies In Florida

- *Dade County.* It is obvious that if Clinton is to win Dade County in 1996, the majority of support will need to come from non-Hispanic/Cuban-Americans. The shift in Cuba policy can be used to show that the President's concern for the economic issues facing the county supersedes the concerns of the minority. Supporting this point, a USA TODAY poll conducted by Spanish-language station WLTV found that while two-thirds of Dade County Hispanics are opposed to the policy, three-fourths of the black and non-Hispanic whites support it. Dade County will not be won on the basis of our Cuba policies alone, but rather the President's track record with the constituencies.

Background

President Clinton has politically courted the Cuban-American community aggressively since the 92 campaign. This approach was done in two phases: first to a small group of Cuban-American Democrats who supported the Clinton/Gore ticket with substantial financial contributions and then secondly, a community wide outreach intended to build on the 20% Cuban-American voter support garnered in the election (Dukakis/Bentson received 8%).

Clinton/Gore made large inroads into the community when then candidate Clinton endorsed the Torrecelli Amendment (aka. Cuban Democracy Act) which President Bush was wavering on. We had been continuously working, rather successfully, to expand our political base in the Cuban-American community in Miami when the rafter crisis of the summer of 1994 struck. While our decision to send Cuban rafters to USNB Guantanamo eroded some public support for the administration, our unilateral imposition of sanctions prohibiting the sending of remittances to Cuba by US based family members (estimated \$500 million yearly) and suspension of charter flights from the US held our political base and gave us a platform to defend our policies. As the rafter situation in Guantanamo continued without any resolution, our base began to weaken putting the administration in a vulnerable position of either unilaterally allowing the rafters into the US and risking the ire of the growing anti-immigration forces in Florida or allowing them to indefinitely sit in limbo at the naval base, an untenable option that was expensive, dangerous and in the long-run politically damning.

Now that the decision has been made based on immigration concerns, we should take every opportunity to rebuild the lost support for the administration. Since we have not wavered on our position towards the embargo, we should espouse our long standing support for this main pillar of Cuban-American concerns.

Questions

- We told media and friends that we were not reversing our policy.
- We looked our state opinion leaders in the eyes.
- The Administration now has no credibility in Florida..
- Emergency measure.
- There are ways to do this.
- Hold hearings on board Coast Guard cutter. Assess if they have valid. I have been jailed 3 times = Political Asylum.
- President: My first responsibility to the citizens of the United States.
 - State of Florida for the past 35 years.
 - We spoke to Cubans in 1994
- "Republic of Cuba" us recognizing them as a legal country.
- This could have been well done.
- The 25,000 never were coming - now are coming.
- When I said they were not consulted but informed.
- We met on Monday at 12:30 and informed him.
- Sell it now before it is defined.
 - Now turn to people we trust.
 - We have solved an immigration porblem.
 - This is a reasonable forward thinking proposal.
- We lost our credibility that Castro would not dictate our foreign policy.
- We must reinforce that we have not changed our policy.
- Those that are blasting us have lost our cottage industry.

Questions

- The President said we would not allow anyone to come in - what has changed?
- When did we negotiate this with Cuba?
- How do they get directly from Guantanamo to Miami?
- Is it purely for riot potential reasons?
- Who pays for them to come?
- How do we respond to Helms when he condemns this?
- What does it mean to repatriate?
- How does it violate human rights agreements?
- What is Senator Gramm willing to do?
- Name to create a position
- Comm ldrs.
dismayed
secret negotiations

RIGHT POLICY - WRONG PROCESS

Questions

- The President said we would not allow anyone to come in - what has changed?
- When did we negotiate this with Cuba?
- How do they get directly from Guantanamo to Miami?
- Is it purely for riot potential reasons?
- Who pays for them to come?
- How do we respond to Helms when he condemns this?
- What does it mean to repatriate?
- How does it violate human rights agreements?
- What is Senator Gramm willing to do?
- Name a task force to come up with a comprehensive plan that deals with the settling of policy.

We are the police forces of Castro
Create a team

BAY OF PIGS #2

DENIS TRADE US IN

TARNOFF SAID THEY WERE -
SECRET NEGOTIATIONS

Talking Points: Burton Bill

- o The Administration has completed a thorough review of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Burton bill,) and has sent a letter to HIRC Chairman Gilman conveying our position on the bill.
- o There are aspects of the bill we can support. These include making the embargo more effective, accelerating planning for assistance to Cuba under a transition or democratic government, and protecting the property interests of Americans abroad.
- o As the President has stated, we believe the Cuban Democracy Act provides the necessary framework to pursue our central goal of promoting a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, but we are ready to work with the Congress to discuss ways in which we can ~~build on~~ strengthen this policy.
- o As currently drafted, some of the bill's provisions would not effectively advance our ability to further a peaceful, rapid transition to democracy in Cuba.
- o Our first concern is to ensure that legislation not infringe upon the President's authority under the Constitution to conduct foreign policy, nor on his flexibility to respond appropriately to evolving situations.
- o A number of the bill's provisions could conflict with broader U.S. interests, including our compliance with major international trade agreements (GATT/WTO and NAFTA), our arms control cooperation with and support for democracy in Russia, and could be difficult to defend under international law.
- o We believe there may be more effective ways than those the bill provides for to protect American property interests in Cuba, and create incentives for a future Cuban Government to provide compensation for, or restitution of, U.S. properties that were confiscated by Castro. We do not want to arouse concerns among Cubans on the island that their interests will be ignored.
- o We hope that members of the committee share our interest in balancing our desire to do as much as possible to promote peaceful, democratic change in Cuba with our international commitments and other interests abroad.
- o We believe our concerns can be resolved through consultation.
- o We are pleased with a number of the changes that were made to the bill during the Sub-committee mark-up, especially the endorsement of our Track II efforts to reach out to the Cuban people in Section 110.
- o We would look forward to meeting with sponsors to discuss the proposed legislation.

Talking Points for Meeting with Florida Friends and Supporters on Cuba

- The main complaint that members of the core group are going to have is that this ~~radical~~ policy without their input number one and number two and they were advised without sufficient notice for them to be prepared the community in which they are leaders. they will express from the beginning of the refugee crisis in 1994 their advice has been ignored and the actions taken have exacerbated the problem on an on-going basis mad the President look disingenuous and erratic. They will stress the point that four immediate actions must be taken in order to stop the demonstrations in South Florida and begin rebuilding the trust and support of the Cuban-American community in the United States. They will most likely voice some of the demand of the Cuban-American leadership in South Florida:

- That the President express unequivocally that there will be no further secret discussions with government of Castro.
- That Mort Halperin be fired or removed from overseeing Cuban policy from inside the NSC.
- That American ships stop immediately going into Cuban waters and docking in Cuban territory.
- That all Cubans that are interdicted on the high seas be given an opportunity to be screened for political asylum.

It is their belief that the President must stop shifting on Cuban policy from one extreme to the other without direction.

They will be presenting a set of recommendations to gain the President's credibility from the Cuba issue that might include the following:

- Affirmation of blue ribbon committee
- A human rights conference on Cuba
- Appointments of the Board of the Cuba Broadcasting
- A set of meeting between Cuban-American leaders and White House officials.
- Set a recommendation for the May 20 Cuban Independence Day.

This groups will certainly voice their concern that the current situation is not an immigration issue and has negatively affected the President on all sides because it is bad policy and bad politics. They feel frustrated that after the Administration has done so much for the state of Florida (i.e., the Summit, the Southcom) the irrational actions of the last few days has alienated everyone in this state. It is the belief that the White residents of the state are upset that the 20,000 Cubans will be coming from Guantanamo after the President of the United States has said that they wouldn't and the Cuban-American community is upset that there were secret talks between Clinton administration and government of Cuba after the President and his Cuban-American supporters that would not occur. They believe the secret talks where about more than

I appreciate your being here today.

While we have been in touch by phone, I wanted to have this opportunity to talk to you directly about the President's policy on Cuba and to hear your concerns. I recognize that there is disappointment with the Administration for not consulting with you before the policy became public.

It will not compensate for that lack of consultation, but I want you to know that we were concerned about lives in conducting these discussions so discretely and announcing them so quickly.

We feared that any leak or rumor of an impending change in migration policy could have produced a rush of Cubans, either onto the water or overland into Guantanamo naval base.

Once we had agreement with the Cuban government, we moved to implement it rapidly, discouraging and disappointing many of you, but ensuring that as few risks to innocent lives as possible would result.

I also want to make it clear that there are no secret agreements between the United States and Cuba about migration or any other issues. We always conduct private negotiations. But we have committed publicly to reveal the results of those negotiations and we have met that commitment. The agreement signed and published on September 9, 1994 and the joint statement issued by Cuba and the United States on May 2, 1995 are what we have agreed to with Cuba.

This Administration wants to see peaceful, democratic change in Cuba and we believe we have a plan, the Cuban Democracy Act, to produce it. The President needs your help to achieve that goal.

I'm eager to hear your thoughts about where we find ourselves now and how we can strengthen our position in the coming months.

Thank you.

• Texas -

Norma Cantu (Assistant Secretary, Department of Education)

Pedro Garza (Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of
Commerce)

Margarita Roque (Executive Secretariat, Department of
Transportation)

Choco Mesa (Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing
and Urban Development)

Eva Plaza (Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice)

Rick Hernandez, Counsel,
SBA

Massachusetts
NJ/NY

Alex Rodriguez

Dept. Trans.
622-0410
title

BORCA
4/7/83 - 6/6/83

Congress of the United States**House of Representatives****Washington, DC 20515****June 16, 1995**

Mr. Charles A. Bowsher
Comptroller General
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Bowsher:

The sudden resignation of Richard Lobo as Director of the U.S. Information Agency's (USIA) Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) raises several disturbing questions with respect to possible political interference in Radio and TV Marti operations.

For many months, we have been concerned by serious allegations regarding politicization, misconduct, and abuse of power in the USIA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with respect to OCB. Specifically, these concerns involve contacts between USIA's OIG and members of Rep. John Conyers' office, pressure by OIG regarding OCB personnel decisions, harassment of OCB managers, and political interference in USIA reorganization plans for OCB. Accordingly, we are hereby requesting that your office conduct an immediate investigation into USIA OIG activities vis-a-vis OCB.

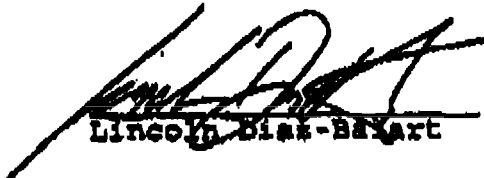
In particular, we request that the GAO investigate the activities and events which led to Mr. Lobo's resignation.

We also request that your agency investigate interference by the OIG in the OCB reorganization plan approved on two occasions by USIA Director Duffay. This reorganization included, among other things, the elimination of the Office of Research Analytical Unit, and other cost-saving measures. This reorganization plan has yet to be implemented.

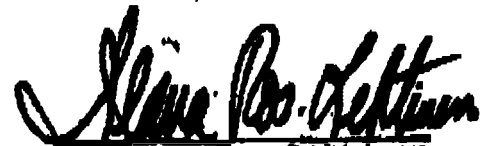
We believe the repeated delays in implementation of the approved OCB reorganization plan and ongoing harassment of OCB by the OIG and Members of Congress who for ideological reasons oppose the existence of OCB, has resulted in the waste of taxpayer funds and has improperly affected the Congressionally-mandated mission of OCB.

We look forward to your immediate attention to this matter and are available to meet with you.

Sincerely,


Lincoln Diaz-Balart


Chris Smith


Illeana Ros-Lehtinen

Congress of the United States**House of Representatives****Washington, DC 20515****June 16, 1995**

Dr. Joseph Duffey
Director
U.S. Information Agency
301 Fourth Street, S.W.
Room 800
Washington, D.C.

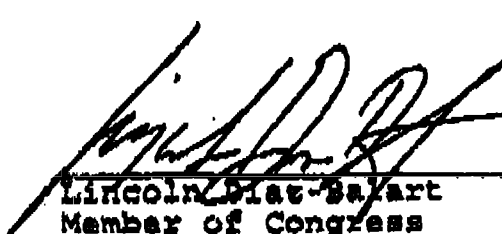
Dear Dr. Duffey:

The recent resignation of Richard Lobo as Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) raises several disturbing questions with respect to possible political interference in Radio and TV Marti's operations. As you know, Richard Lobo is a highly respected professional whose departure from OCB sparks concern as to the reasons and motives behind his sudden resignation.

For many months, we have been concerned by serious allegations regarding politicization, misconduct and abuse of power, and political interference in the U.S. Information Agency's (USIA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) with respect to OCB. Specifically, these allegations involve contacts between USIA's OIG and members of Rep. John Conyers' office, OIG pressure on OCB personnel decisions, OIG harassment and intimidation of OCB managers, and OIG's political interference in OCB.

Accordingly, we are requesting an immediate GAO investigation into the USIA's OIG activities vis-a-vis OCB. We are requesting that this investigation include any and all participation of USIA officials in the actions taken by the OIG. We are further requesting that the GAO investigate any possible relationship between your decision-making on OCB's reinventing plan and OIG activity. Finally, we are requesting that the GAO investigate any and all activities in USIA which may have contributed to Mr. Lobo's decision to resign. This will include any attempt by USIA management to perpetuate or ignore any waste of taxpayer funds in OCB's Research Department.

Sincerely,


Lincoln Diaz-Salart
Member of Congress


Ilseana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress


Chris Smith
Member of Congress



United States Department of State

Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

FAX COVER SHEET Washington, D.C. 20520-6258

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FAX: 202-647-0344

Date: June 20, 1995

TO: Susanna Valdez
FAX: 456-6218

FROM: RICHARD A. NUCCIO
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALEXANDER WATSON
PHONE: 647-7024

Number of pages including this cover: 3

REMARKS: _____

If there are problems with this fax transmission, please
call ARA 202-647-9227.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alexis Herman
Harold Ickes
FROM: Richard A. Nuccio
RE: Release of President's Video Taped Message on Cuba
DATE: 6/19/95

Issue for Decision

That the President's video-taped message on Cuba, recorded late last month, be released the week of June 19, preferably by Wednesday, June 21. A decision to release the tape should be accompanied by steps to inform targeted media outlets, such as the Spanish language media in general and Cuban American talk radio in particular; key Congressional contacts; and the President's Cuban American Democratic supporters.

Discussion

I have reviewed the transcript of the President's taped message from last month and believe it is still viable. At the time it was recorded, no new rafters had been picked up and the President could have claimed unmitigated success for his policy decision of May 2. Unfortunately, since the tape was made two subsequent groups of rafters have been picked up and returned to Cuba. However, in the tape itself the President only claims that "fewer" rafters have been picked up in May and compares this to last year when more than 700 rafters were picked up. This comparison still makes sense even though we are now in June. We are more than half way through the month and have so far picked up only 29 rafters compared to more than 1,000 last June. We should review the transcript again just before it is released to ensure that no new events have developed to contradict the tape.

Follow-through

The tape will be aimed at and be of interest to the Cuban American communities in Florida and New Jersey. I would expect that the tape will be featured prominently in Miami's Spanish language radio, TV, and print media. Because the Spanish networks Univision and Telemundo are both based in Miami the President's message will probably also receive extensive coverage in the Latin American and Caribbean region and in other Spanish language markets. The White House press office should prepare a list of the target media and inform them as soon as we know the release day and time.

Interested Members of Congress have criticized the failure to consult with them about new initiatives as well as about the content of the decisions. Critics of the President's policy should not find anything in the President's message to change their minds about the policy. But if we don't let them know that the video is coming, they will have another pretext for criticism. We should also similarly inform the President's closest supporters in the Cuban American community since they specifically requested a Presidential statement on Cuba. Depending on his current relations with the White House we should give special attention to Congressman Menendez, perhaps offering him a transcript of the tape when it is about to be released and asking if he would recommend particular media outlets in the New York metropolitan area.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FAX COVER SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FAX: 202-647-0344

Date: 6/26TO: BrianFAX: 202-456-6218FROM: RICHARD A. NUCCIOSPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT ANDTHE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CUBAPHONE: 647-7024Number of pages including this cover: 5REMARKS: I have one for Senator'suse only. They should not
be copied or distributed
to his audience.RA

If there are problems with this fax transmission, please
call ARA 202-647-9227.

Goals of U.S. Cuba Policy

- o The U.S. seeks a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, evidenced by respect for human rights, free and fair elections, and economic freedom and open markets.
 - o U.S. policy is guided by the bipartisan Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 which has two key elements: to deny legitimacy and resources to the regime through the comprehensive economic embargo; and to support the Cuban people through private humanitarian aid, improved communications and an enhanced flow of ideas and information. As provided in the Act, we are prepared to respond to significant reforms with carefully calibrated measures.
- Since the Act, we have authorized over \$70 million in medicine, food and humanitarian supplies to NGOs in Cuba. Direct telephone service began last November.

Cuban Economic Reforms, Human Rights

- o We continue to believe strongly that the embargo is the best leverage we have to promote change in Cuba, and that, particularly in the years since Soviet support to Cuba ended, it is working. Economic measures which would have been unthinkable a few years ago are being tolerated, with other, potentially more significant changes reportedly under consideration.
- In 1993 the Cuban government began adopting tentative measures which have included legalization of the dollar and of tightly circumscribed self-employment, and the establishment of agricultural and industrial/craft markets. The government has also aggressively courted foreign investment, something it previously considered anathema.
- o While more fundamental reforms are necessary to improve Cuba's future prospects, the island's essential problem remains the lack of political freedoms and respect for human rights.
 - o Our information is that the human rights situation in Cuba remains deplorable, even as the regime implements piecemeal economic reforms. Castro appears to be pursuing a modified "China model," allowing limited economic liberalization while fully maintaining his regime's repressive political policies.
- Pressed by a French human rights organization, the Cuban government released six political prisoners on medical grounds in May, including well-known

-2-

dissidents Sebastian Arcos and Yndamiro Restano. While we welcome their release, this is a small step considering that Cuban activists claim that more than 2,000 persons remain imprisoned for their political beliefs and others are still being arrested.

- Between May 13 and May 16 Cuban state security agents detained 15 members of the Partido Pro Derechos Humanos de Cuba (PPDHC or "Human Rights Party of Cuba") in three provinces. Eleven of the 15 were released the same day, with charges of disseminating "enemy propaganda" or "illegal association" filed; one was held for four days without charges; the remaining three remain in detention on "enemy propaganda" charges. At the time of the arrests, state security agents searched the activists' homes, seizing reports of human rights violations and equipment.
- Three members of the Cuban human rights group Frente Maximilio Gomez were detained by state security May 19-20.
- A Protestant minister, Rev. Orson Vila, was arrested in Camaguey province on May 24 and tried the same day for "disobedience" and "illegal meeting." He was sentenced to 23 months imprisonment (since reduced on appeal to 18 months). Eighty "houses of worship" belonging to Rev. Vila's "Words of Life" Pentecostal church were shut down.
- o The Castro regime has been attempting to project an image of greater openness and cooperation with the international community on human rights. Based on these recent events, however, it would appear that the regime remains as determined as ever to arrest and prosecute on state security grounds members of independent organizations it considers to pose a threat.

Helms/Burton Bill

- o The Administration communicated on April 28 its position to the Congress on the proposed Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (the Helms/Burton bill). There are aspects of the bill we support, such as those making the embargo more effective, planning for assistance to a transition or democratic government, and protecting American property interests in Cuba. We are concerned, however, that a number of the bill's provisions could conflict with broader interests, including our compliance with international trade agreements, such as GATT/WTO and NAFTA. We hope to work with the bill's sponsors to modify such provisions.

-3-

U.S.-Cuban Migration Accords; Monitoring Returned Migrants

We support safe, orderly and lawful migration in order that lives are not put at risk by unsafe departures.

- o Since our September 9, 1994 agreement to accept a minimum of 20,000 Cuban migrants per year, 22,116 had been approved as of June 16; 16,353 of these count toward the 20,000 annual minimum.
 - As of June 21, 16,974 Cuban migrants were in safe haven at Guantanamo. 14,406 Cubans have been paroled into the U.S. on humanitarian grounds.
- o The May 2 joint U.S.-Cuban agreement was negotiated to prevent another uncontrolled and dangerous migrant outflow from Cuba and to provide a responsible, humanitarian solution for the unsustainable situation of the Cubans in Guantanamo.
 - Migrants intercepted at sea attempting to enter the U.S. and Cubans entering Guantanamo illegally will be returned to Cuba. The Cuban government has committed to take no action against them.
 - Ample safeguards remain for Cubans who have a well-founded fear of persecution. Migrants intercepted at sea are seen by Spanish-speaking U.S. immigration officers trained in asylum law, who evaluate any statements the migrants may make regarding a need for protection. Returned migrants are advised on the availability of existing mechanisms for legal migration, including our in-country refugee program.
 - Under the September 1994 migration accord this program, one of only three the U.S. operates in the world, has been significantly expanded. In the first year of implementation of the accord, we expect to issue 7,000 refugee documents; previously the annual total was around 3,000.
- o The May 2 Joint Statement built on the September 1994 accord with Cuba to further regularize migration relations between the two countries. These migration agreements stand alone. As Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff stated to the Congress on May 18, "It would be a mistake to encourage hope on the part of the Cuban government that there has been a change in overall U.S. policy toward Cuba."

-4-

- We are determined to provide sufficient U.S. personnel, both regular and temporary staff, to monitor the Cuban Government's compliance with its commitment in the May 2 joint statement. We are in constant touch with the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to make sure that they have the resources needed.
- o So far five teams of two U.S. Interests Section and temporary duty officials have been used to visit the four groups of migrants returned under the May 2 accord in their home areas. Several of these migrants have already also visited the U.S. Interests Section since their return and held discussions there with U.S. officials. Additional teams will be sent to Cuba when warranted by the number of returnees.
 - o The State Department has received assurances from the Castro regime that U.S. officers in charge of checking on repatriated Cubans are able to freely move around the island. So far, U.S. officers have been able to perform their monitoring functions without restrictions or difficulties.
- Two of the 51 migrants the U.S. has returned to Cuba since May 2 have made credible claims that they have been harassed since returning home. One migrant appears to have been beaten by local police. He reported to U.S. Interests Section officers that a Cuban state security official intervened to stop the assault and later advised police that he was not to be bothered further.
- The Principal Officer of the U.S. Interests Section made our concerns known about this case at the highest levels of the Cuban government. The Cuban government has acknowledged that a mistake was made and has assured us that this incident will not be repeated.
 - A second migrant has been fired from his position as a university professor. Again, we have made our concerns known at the highest level of the Cuban government. The Cuban government told us that the man will be offered a different, but similar position, commensurate with his education, and with the same salary and benefits.
 - o The U.S. Government takes accusations of harassment seriously. We intend to hold the Cuban government to its pledge not to harass or otherwise prejudice migrants returned to Cuba.

The following is a translation of an article which appeared in the June 28 edition of DIARIO LAS AMERICAS under the masthead on the front page:

CLINTON INSISTS HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS POLICY TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT IN HAVANA

The White House released a recording, supposedly directed at the Cuban exile community, in which president Bill Clinton explains his administration's policy towards Cuba.

"As has been the case for more than thirty years (our policy) is intended to produce a peaceful transition to democracy," says the president in the video which was recorded four weeks ago, at the direction of Richard Nuccio and other advisors.

With the exception of his insistence that the change in the policy really isn't change, the President did not offer new information or explanations in his message. He repeated that the fundamental basis of policy towards Cuba is the Cuban Democracy Act, popularly known as the Torricelli Bill, and that the United States will maintain the embargo in agreement with the law. Clinton made no reference to the Helms-Burton bill.

In concordance with the law, the president said that the government is in contact with leaders of the opposition, churches, human rights organizations, and "others who fight for political and economic rights (in Cuba) as our best allies in the endeavor to promote political change."

With regard to the rafters, he said that there was no other alternative to what was done and that the U.S. could not absorb all of those who wished to flee Cuba. He insisted that everyone could be sure that no Cubans who the U.S. considered at risk for reprisal upon repatriation, would be sent back: "For too long Castro has used the threat of uncontrolled immigration to distract us from our fundamental objective, which is the peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba," said the president. Continuing the new practice, after the change that is said not to be change, the president spoke in terms of immigration and not exile in reference to the Cubans who try to escape the island. He again spoke of carefully "calibrated responses" to political and economic reforms in Cuba.

Well placed sources in Washington informed DIARIO LAS AMERICAS that some advisors to President Clinton did not agree with releasing this message, for fear that it would be seen as an insult to the exile community, but that Samuel Berger and Morton Halperin, both of the NSC, insisted it would serve to promote Nuccio's image among exiles.

Nuccio once traveled frequently to Miami accompanying Dennis Hayes to meet with exile leaders of the Hispanic press, but since the announcement of the White House's new policy towards the tyranny of Castro on May 2, Nuccio has not answered the calls of this paper, nor those of various Hispanic stations in Miami.

Sources also say that this message could be of some use to a recognized group of Cubans affiliated with the Democratic Party, who have contributed large amounts of money to Clinton's

presidential campaign and are consulted every so often regarding Cuban issues.

Without doubt the recording sends a message to the Cuban government that, now that the president has told the exile community about the new policy, although he denies it is new, the policy will not be changed. The policy was reached in secret negotiations between both governments. On many occasions, members of the administration denied that these secret negotiations existed until Attorney General Janet Reno announced the changes on May 2, 1995.

President Clinton finished the recording with the old assertion, familiar to many Cuban exiles, that he wants to be the President who welcomes Cuba into the community of democratic nations.

FAX COVER SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
14TH & CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W., ROOM 5063
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

(202) 482-1015 (TELEPHONE)
(202) 482-6021 (FAX)

To: Suzana Valdez

Telephone: _____

Fax: 456-6218

From: Elio Miller

Number of pages including fax cover sheet: _____

Message: _____

CUBAN-AMERICAN APPOINTEES' CUBA POLICY REVIEW PROPOSAL
PREPARED FOR THE PRESIDENT BY:
Elio Muller, Jack Otero, Nelson Reyneri

The purpose of this proposal is to express the personal opinion of the above Cuban-American Appointees of the administration to the President. The recommendations expressed herein do not reflect the position or policy of any of the agencies or Departments in which the appointees are employed. Some aspects of this proposal pertain to how the White House should respond to the immediate Policy/Political crisis. The totality of this proposal is directed toward a proactive and sustainable Cuba policy.

I. WHITE HOUSE STAFF INFRASTRUCTURE

The White House must confront the fact that Cuba policy is a strange combination of foreign policy, immigration policy, domestic policy, and political policy. More high level advisors should be added to the staff that is dealing with this set of issues. To date, NSC, Justice Department, and State Department have been driving the policy with Public Liaison, and Political Affairs being brought in for valiant efforts of last minute damage control. Cuban-Americans in the administration, Rep. Bob Menendez NJ(D), and Cuban-American Democrat political friends have not been consulted. Political and crosscurrent issue considerations must be front loaded in order to have a more proactive and sustainable policy. Some of the White House staff and advisors that we recommend be added to the team are; Vice President, Al Gore, Mark Geran, Kathy Jurado, Ron Scheman, Rep. Bill Richardson, and Rep. Bob Menendez.

II. SHORT-TERM POLICY ACTION STEPS

1. Announce support and visibly advocate for passage of the Menendez Bill. This an all "carrots" bill with the incentives for homegrown transition to democratic reforms in Cuba. This is a proactive response to the Helms Bill.

2. Give a proper accounting of the president's firm and aggressive policy record on Cuba. President Clinton has taken the toughest steps for a meaningful isolation of Cuba's regime. Lets get him credit for it.

3. Attack the Republican House vote to eliminate Radio and TV Marti. Have the president loudly restate his support for the Office Of Cuba Broadcasting.

4. Remind the Cuban-American Community that they send more than \$700,000,000.00 per year to Cuba. This makes them the largest source of hard currency to the Castro Regime.

5. Be prepared to respond decisively to any violation of the immigration accord by the Cuban regime.(Exit Strategy)

III. LONG-TERM POLICY ACTION STEPS

1. Maintain a mechanism for receiving and imputing advise from the Cuban-American appointees, and the political core group.

2. Develop a sustainable Cuba policy with pragmatic, proactive, and progressive strategies.

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: SUZANNA VALDEZ

DATE: JUNE 6, 1995

SUBJECT: PHONE CALL AND CUBA

Since the scheduling proposal for the President was rejected, I have corresponded with Jack Quinn and David Strauss in the Vice President's office about his participation in the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) conference scheduled for June 22-24 in Austin, Texas. I believe the Administration needs to participate for the following reasons:

- We are currently having a problem with lack of visibility in the Hispanic community.
- Elected officials from California, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Texas will be attending. Most of this group feels that they have not been touched since the campaign. We need their help in securing the '96 base
- If the President does a satellite message, it will cost NALEO \$10,000. They would rather pay for the Vice President to travel to Austin.

I think you should speak with them about securing the Vice President.

I would also like to express my opinion that the President should not do a video message on Cuba policy because it makes him appear weak and on the defensive.

To: Mrs. Suzanna Valdez

.....

Fax: 202-456-6218

.....

From: Jorge L. Bolanos

.....

Date: June 7, 1995

.....

Pages: 1 page(s) including this page.

.....

The International Republican Institute has formed a "Cuba Transition Team" headed by Jeb Bush. This group will meet quarterly to discuss Cuba related issues. Some of the members include Otto Reich, Tom Cox, Amb. Jeane Kirkpatrick and Clayton Yeutter. Call me to discuss this further. Maybe we should create a counterpart through the DLC..?

Jorge

fax

From the desk of...

Jorge L. Bolanos
President, CEO
Mivis/Nova Corp.
5870 SW 8th St. Suite 7
Miami, Florida 33144

305-261-2600
Fax: 305-262-0080

BRIEFING FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: SUZANNA VALDEZ

DATE: JUNE 13, 1995

RE: CONGRESSMAN BOB MENENDEZ

Important points regarding Congressman Menendez:

- * *We can not win NJ without Hudson County (Menendez' district).* Although Congressman does not need the support of the Cuban Americans, he continually seeks their backing because he is Cuban.
- * *Is the only Cuban Democrat in Congress.* Congressman Menendez is not monolithic like Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Congressman Lincoln-Diaz Ballart.
- * *Has continuously supported the President.* Congressman Menendez has a strong voting record with the President.

Congressman Menendez and Cuba:

- * *Knows this issue more than anyone at State or in the White House.* Congressman Menendez has incredible insight into every aspect of this issue.
- * *Also very well regarded in Miami.* Congressman Menendez is respected by all Cuban exile leadership.
- * *Had a bill regarding Cuba that the he felt the White House ignored.* Congressman Menendez' bill is being incorporated into the Helmes-Burton Bill. He will likely ask for our support.

Perspective from Congressman Menendez:

- * *Has been working toward the Administration's objectives, and in the best interest of the President.*

- call Alfie
- call Maria Padham
- call Andy

Sosnick mkg.

Long-Hill Caucus

- Budget:

- 9pm
- intro amendments
- list

* Op'drs (10) to go to media

* Feasibility list

not a legis proposal
bal budget 10 yrs
vs.
7 yrs.

tax

protecting education
medicare
medicaid

Rm. 450

expand medicare trust-fund
tax deductibility for self-employed

Marilyn: 35 Hispanic names

3:00pm Steve's office

Spokespersons:

Regina Montoya
George Haynes
Carmela Lacayo
Belen Bobles
Juan Andrade
Antonio Gonzalez
Nasty Martinez
Manny Mirabal

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

23-Jun-1995 10:31am

TO: Alexis M. Herman
TO: Ruby G. Moy
TO: Deborah L. Fine

FROM: Jennifer M. O'Connor
 Office of The Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Cuban American speech

Senator Ray Lesniak is a State Senator from New Jersey. He is also the former Democratic State Party Chair in NJ. And he was a chair of last night's NJ Clinton Gore fundraiser -- he is a huge supporter and very important to us politically and financially in NJ.

He called me this morning to say he was invited to and is going to address the Cuban National Foundation (the Jorge Mas Canosa group) next week in NJ. He would like to speak with Alexis about what to say to them. (His district has a significant Cuban population in NJ.)

Please let me know if Alexis can make the call to him. He can be reached at 201 403-1100.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

26-Jun-1995 10:15am

TO: Ruby G. Moy
TO: Suzanna Valdez

FROM: Jennifer M. O'Connor
Office of The Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Senator Lesniak and Cubans

fax
201-403-
0010

Senator Lesniak called me again this morning. I guess Alexis hasn't called him yet. He is a key person for us in NJ and it is important that she give him a call. PLEASE let me know if she can't do it so that I can let him know that and not leave him hanging.

His speech is lunch on Wednesday to the Cuban National Foundation. He doesn't know what he wants to say -- he doesn't want to be defending the administration unless that makes sense and he wants to talk with Alexis about that. If he can't say anything helpful, he won't do the speech.

He thinks there is opportunity to patch things up with the NJ Cubans -- and he knows them very well -- he represents a large portion of them.

PLEASE call and let me know where this is.

\$ FR Cuban Am NT/Foundation

VIDEO

TRANSCRIPT

Joe Ginarte
Board of Directors
Dem Finance Council

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: JAM DATE: 6/28/18
2016-0720-F

C.P. Portes
5041 Broadway • New York, N.Y. • 10034 • (212) 567-0001

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

June 2, 1995

VIA FAX

Ms. Suzanna Valdez
Associate Director
Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Re: President Clinton's Video Address on Cuba

Dear Suzanna:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation this morning regarding the above referenced, please be advised that I oppose said address for the following reasons:

1. The fact that demonstrations are taking place in Washington, June 8, 1995, sponsored by the Cuban-American National Foundation (CANF - Republicans,) and July 4, 1995, by the Organization of Cuban Unity (Unidad Cubana - Republicans,) should not be the reason for such video.

2. The President must not appear to be apologetic, be placed on the defensive or appear to be on the offensive.

3. The present discord of the Cuban-American Community relates to three specific matters.

- a) Repatriation of Cubans at Sea.
- b) The secret talks with Castro's Regime.
- c) The perception that other agreements or representations have been established with the Castro Regime.

A video would send the wrong message and would create a precedence that is not appropriate for the Presidency.

RECOMMENDATION:

During the next few days, the President will be making various appearances throughout the Country. At one of those appearances he should address Cuba policy.

SUGGESTIONS ON FORMAT OF TEXT:

Since my days as Governor of Arkansas, I have developed a special relationship with the Cuban-American Community, when I was asked by President Carter to accept at Ft. Chaffee Cubans from the Mariel boat lift, I readily accepted in the spirit of compassion for the plight of the Cuban people, without allowing political conditions to determine my decision.

During my Presidential campaign, I actively supported the Cuba Democracy Act, which called for the strengthening of the Embargo and the support of democracy in Cuba.

Throughout my Presidency I have remained committed and fully support the present Embargo on Cuba.

In addressing the recent exodus, I commanded and directed the U.S. Coast Guard to rescue and save all people attempting to leave the Country (Cuba) in order to maintain an orderly process and ultimate reunification of families. We provided a Safe Haven in Guantanamo Bay.

After paroling women, children and the elderly and realizing that the present conditions in Guantanamo could not be maintained given the living conditions and the probable hurricane conditions and danger to human lives at this time of the year I authorized an Immigration Agreement that would provide a legal and orderly parole process, preserving at all times the concern for human lives and the best interest of the American people.

Castro must understand that we are no longer willing to accept and bare the responsibilities of the failure of his Regime

I am committed to support direct assistance to the dissidents in Cuba in order to bring true democracy to the Cuban people.

Democracy not reaching countries like
Korea --- Cuba

In recent days we have seen television reports showing the deplorable conditions that the people in Cuba are presently suffering and have suffered under Castro's Regime.

Democracy must be brought to Cuba, and my Administration will support Dissidents/Human Rights Organizations in Cuba and maintain the Embargo until substantial reforms are adopted that lead to Democracy in Cuba.

CONCLUSION:

* The President must not create the impression that he is making a pressured special gesture to the Cuban-American Community through a video address. However, he should clearly define his policy towards Cuba at his earliest convenience. In the final analysis the present policy stands.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in such an important decision at such a crucial time.

Sincerely yours,



Carlos P. Portes

cc: Samuel Berger (Deputy Asst. to the President / NSC)
Morton Halprin (Special Asst. to the President / NSC)
Richard a Nuccio (Advisor to the President/Cuba)

Graham? What does that mean?

Public Cause. Tarnoff

not in Miami

a joke

Video -

Tom Gertz

Civil Society + NGO's
in Cuba

Dennis Hayes

Like
Bry
Halter
Mered
Feinberg

Bilats -

Monitoring -

Cuban Delegation

Miami Relocation

F

- cannot use
barg. chip

Article -

C.P. Portes

5041 Broadway • New York, N.Y. • 10034 • (212) 567-0001

June 28, 1995

VIA FAX

Mr. Richard A. Nuccio
Special Advisor to the President
and The Secretary of State for Cuba
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: President Clinton's video address
to the Cuban-American community
June 27, 1995 - 11:00 AM

Dear Rick:

Well, the Jury is in and the Verdict is out. Regrettably, as I predicted on June 2, 1995 and as reiterated on my memo to you June 27, 1995, these are the reports.

1. UNIVISION (TV): 6:00 PM NEWS AND 11:00 PM NEWS
"Due to the pressure created by the Cuban-American community President Clinton was forced to provide an apology:
2. JORGE MAS: Denounces the President's statement as:
"Rhetoric and empty words, lacking substance or actions".
3. TELEMUNDO: President Clinton caves in to pressure from Cuban groups, particularly the Cuban American National Foundation apologizing for his actions. Cuban-American leaders reject his explanation or apology and criticize his motives.
4. RADIO AND WRITTEN PRESS: The same response.

Finally, by stating that the President directly or indirectly supports Cardinal Ortega's position of reconciliation has further infuriated the Cuban-American community, which has denounced the Cardinal's position.

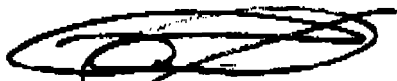
continued...

June 28, 1995

Page Two

Please, pretty please, LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE and don't stir up this issue anymore. The community has to accept the President's decision, no explanations are needed. the policy is clear, let's dedicate our efforts to other aspects of the development of the policy and its implementation.

Sincerely,
your friend

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CP Portes', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Carlos P. Portes

cc: Morton H. Halperin
Sandy Berger
Suzanna Valdez

C.P. Portes

5041 Broadway • New York, N.Y. • 10034 • (212) 567-0001

June 27, 1995

VIA FAX

Mr. Richard A. Nuccio
Special Advisor to the President
and The Secretary of State for Cuba
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: President Clinton's address
Cuban-American Community

Dear Rick:

I acknowledge receipt of your fax dated June 27, 1995 and faxed at what appears to be 7:44 AM, today.

This letter is written to express my total opposition to an ill conceived and poor political decision.

On June 2, 1995, I was requested to express my opinion regarding the concept of doing a video tape. At that time I indicated in writing that this idea of a video tape did not serve the Administration's interest.

It is absurd to advise the President to air a tape just when things were beginning to calm down, by airing this tape now the Administration has created a new speculation that the President is about to change his Cuba policy once again and is only doing this video to prepare the Cuban-American community for said new announcement.

In closing, I had been under the impression that subsequent to our meeting at the White House with Mr. Panetta, Mr. Ickes, Mr. Berger and yourself, we had agreed to consult with each other prior to any issue or actions that would affect our respective position within the Cuban-American community, this is not the case. In this instance and regrettably the damage is already done, I ask myself the following questions.

continued...

June 27, 1995

Page Two

1. What possible benefit does the President gain through this action?
2. If we did not do the video immediately after the President made the decision to return the rafters, why a month and a half later?
3. The Cuban-American community is very suspect of the Administration's Cuba policy, why now this video address.
4. Now that the demonstrations have subsided and the Administration's policy decision on Cuba not reversed, why rekindle or refuel the anger of the Cuban-American community towards the President?

Finally, the decision exposes the President to more criticism by the Cuban-American community, the Republican Party and to the Democrats who feel that the President owes no explanation on national policy decisions to a specific group.

Once again, we'll pray to God that these ill conceived, short term, myopic political decisions do not continue to weaken the President's re-election efforts.

Sincerely yours,



Carlos P. Portes

cc: Suzanna Valdez
Sandy Berger

The issue of the Cuban Constitution in the United States and their relationship with our administration (or lack of) is a challenging and complex one.

Although I basically agree with the concerns and recommendations of the Miami Core Group (Memo of Sept 16), we must ^{also} take a broader, long term

strategy ~~that~~ to deal with this very strong & ~~active~~ politically active Constitution. In spite of the fact that the majority of the Cuban / American Community resides in South Florida (about 200,000 very active registered voters - this figure includes children born ~~and~~ ~~registered~~ of Cuban Parents but not identified in Election Dept's poster as Cubans -), there are large pockets of Cubans in California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas (see attached chart).

and these ~~too~~ must also be included in any long term strategy ~~to~~ in addressing the issue of Cuba

The Cuban American Community in the United States

(2) 1

Cuban Americans are a fairly monolithic community regardless of geographic location. They seem to be concerned mostly about three issues: ~~Other policies~~ U.S. Foreign policy towards Cuba, Immigration policy towards Cuba and the economy. Although there is a very small ~~and~~ slowly growing ~~number of~~ group supporting ~~the easing of sanctions and the lifting~~ of the embargo, and the Normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations, this group has only a small following. ~~Example~~ ~~at least a few thousand~~ made up of academics and business people. Without a well recognized or active politically active constituency.

In addressing their ~~concerns~~ ~~on~~ concerns on these three issues, I will start with the easiest.

- ① The Economy - This is our biggest source of pride so far. ~~Although~~ and ~~we have~~ one that we have failed to capitalize on within the Cuban community of the U.S. I have set out to identify a list of 25 non-political business and economic leaders within each Cuban community of the States. These names should be added to our mailing list on economic

issues for on going Communication. Once these names have been identified, I would like to send a letter to all of them ~~explaining~~ ^{explaining} ~~the~~ our accomplishment and the economic forecast. ~~They will also be invited to the summit.~~ This list will be ~~needed to be~~ forwarded to the Commerce Dept as well as to Trade (Mickey Kantor) for ~~our~~ on going contact. ~~and~~

They will be invited to participate in the summit as business leaders and will be included in every activity in the W. H. that relates to the economy.

④ US/Cuba Immigration Policy.

Although we have no hard data to substantiate this claim, our sources insist that the majority of CIA approve of the way the president handled the potential influx of illegal aliens. In spite of a feeling of uneasiness about "Change of Policy of the Cuban Adversity Act" they were generally pleased that another massive influx of Cubans was averted.

It is difficult to explain, and INS and Justice have not been

very cooperative to this end, that the CIA was not revealed and that the interdiction policy was an emergency measure taken by the President during a crisis. Because ^{during} the New York talks ^{there was} ~~an enormous~~ ^{other} lack of information, we ~~could~~ at the O.P.H. ^{computing} we were not able to prepare ~~the~~ ^{ahead} of time in order to minimize speculation and rumors.

What has ~~should~~ have been perceived as an outstanding victory for the President, has turned into a rumor tornado that has ~~biggest~~ wreaked havoc in the Cuban American Communities.

I have proposed in the past, and continue to feel this is a must -

invite to D.C. that we ~~bring~~ (at their expense) a group of opinion makers (non-political) from all the C/A Communities for a day of briefing that would include Immigration, State and Treasury. These ~~briefings~~ briefings should be well coordinated with our office to cover all the issues and concerns that are of importance to the President. There has been innumerable contacts with individual leaders ~~between these~~ ^{and top officials at INS, DOS & DOS} ~~and top officials at INS, DOS & DOS~~ ~~the~~ The results have been more rumors, specu-

lations and the believe ^(A) we are negotiating with Cuba behind the scenes, ^(B) the administration is lying to the community and ^(C) we don't know what we are doing.

This briefing could be used to explain the administration Cuba IN's policy and drum up support for the president. I will address the issue of detention camps later on this memo.

(3) US-Cuba Policy.-

Since the Bay of Pigs invasion, the C/AC has mistrusted the democratic party. Although the majority of C/A voted for Jimmy Carter in 1976, their fears were justified when during his administration the US opened an almost/embassy US Interest Section in Havana. They are thoroughly convinced that ~~should~~ had Jimmy Carter favored re-election, the embargo would have been lifted and decades of political assassination and oppression ~~of the~~ would have been forgiven. This fear has been capitalized and worked to the bone by the the republican party since 1980 and with great results. Of all Cubans who registered to vote since then, almost 80% has registered republicans.

6

The C/A is convinced that in spite of initial tough ~~steps~~ sanctions during the ~~the~~ influx crisis, the president and his advisors at the NSC and State have plans to allow Castro to get away with cosmetic changes to justify the normalization of relations and lifting of the embargo.

6

We must, as soon as possible (since this affects everything else we try to do in the CAC) ~~come out with~~ ^{unveil} a well articulated ~~plan~~ policy towards Cuba. In order to make this palatable to the CAC, the following issues must be included and appropriately highlighted

a pledge

(7)

1 - Our foreign policy statement should include that the administration will undertake an organized / massive effort to ~~stir up~~ ^{motivate} mobilize world public opinion to condemn the Castro regime for blatant human rights violations. We could name a special ^{non-partisan} committee (that would include Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Ambassador ^{Manuel} Valladares, Paul Celjas, and Colin Powell) to visit foreign governments (most important Spain, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia - because they are increasing their economic support of Cuba) and accurately inform them of the current human rights situation - continue to work

Some
A Repre.
from
community
Int.

- ② Lay the groundwork for tougher sanctions if Castro continues to threaten US National security by encouraging and organizing illegal entries of Cubans into the U.S.
- ③ Encourage and support those who favor a democratic transition in Cuba, including dissidents and exile groups. Poland's Solidarity surged as a powerful opposition force due to the massive help it received

- ③ Pledge significant US aid and trade to accelerate the establishment of a multi-party, free market democracy based on the rule of law and validated by free elections under international supervision.
- ④ I continue to vocalize our support for Cuba Broadcasting and increasingly within our authority and budget constraints, ~~intensify~~ broadcasts to Cuba and any other ~~means to disseminate~~ accurate information through channels of communications available to us.

These recommendations are being sent to the president by a group called "Citizens for a free Cuba" headed by the former president of Costa Rica Luis Alberto Monge and Elliot Abrams. Also these recommendations are very popular within the CAC. ~~and pose little~~

Once our foreign policy has been ~~clarified~~ articulated, clarified and made palatable to the CAC we will continue to keep the Community informed and on track in their support of the President's efforts. They were very pleased with candidate Clinton's stand on Cuba and his subsequent actions (including the best address to the people of Cuba via T.V. on May 20). This support has been drastically eroded by the mishandling of the recent crisis.

Role of the Core Group in Florida.

The Core Group is composed of 8 early supporters: ~~Alfie Tan~~

~~Maria Elena Torano~~

Alfie Tanjul, Paul Cajas, Jorge Perez, Maria Elena Torano, Simon Ferrer, Jorge Bolaños, Willie Braceras and Herminio San Roman. From the outset there was infighting and dissent within the group and White House staffers picked up on different factions and tried to address their concerns. Mr Tanjul,

Mr Cajas and Ms Torano were supporters of expanding the core group and letting Jorge Mas Canosa play a ~~strong~~ ^{more} visible role within the new administration. The rest of the group was adamant

~~Saw a limited role by IMF~~

the wanted the CANF to play a slowly calibrated role which would benefit the Pres. at election time.

about diluting their power and contacts and were appraised (later on ^{very} justified) that if IMF was given access, this would end up damaging the president and obliterating them. We tried early in ~~April~~ July 1993 to bring the group together (Craig Smith, Joe Blasques, Rita Ferris, Jean Baggett and I organized the first mtg) but the effort ended up in a shouting match and no decision. Although we have tried on several occasions to heal the breach, it has been to no avail. However, as a result of the recent mistakes made in addressing the Cuban crisis, they have regained their initial vigor and have been working closely together for the last few weeks.

We should not waste this opportunity. We should name one person (I will be glad to fill that role if it's deemed appropriate) to be their point of contact. Great part of their frustration was ~~conflicting information~~ and the lack of a coordinated effort on the part of the White House and what they perceived to be inconsistent stances in the importance their role demanded. We must be given accurate and timely information ~~on~~ changes in policy, changes in

STATE OF FLORIDA

P7H4

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001


LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 2, 1995

CONTACT: Ron Sachs
or Jo Miglino
(904) 488-5394

Statement by
GOVERNOR LAWTON CHILES
on Clinton Administration's New Policy on Cuban Migration

"The federal government's announcement today of a new policy regarding Cuban migration will ensure that Florida should never again confront a massive wave of uncontrolled immigration from Cuba. In fact, the new policy requires the return directly to Castro's Cuba of any rafters, from this point forward, and it will count these arrivals against a limit already established. That will actively discourage illegal immigration from Cuba and prevent the unnecessary loss of human life on a perilous overseas voyage. The federal government should continue to monitor those who are returned to Cuba to ensure they are not victims of persecution.

"The Administration's announcement that the remaining detainees at Guantanamo will be admitted into the United States during the next nine months is a difficult but necessary step in this new policy, which will protect Florida in the future. I have insisted that any of these people resettled into Florida have both family contacts and sponsorship -- to minimize the impact on our communities.

(more)

CUBAN POLICY -- Page Two

"The federal government still bears an active responsibility for these individuals -- and I insist that appropriate resources be made available to Florida to assist in providing for these new arrivals. The federal Immigration Emergency Fund and the Refugee Assistance Act were established for this very purpose and Florida should directly benefit, in a timely manner, to obtain the necessary resources. Absent family contacts and sponsorship, these Cubans should be resettled into states other than Florida.

"Last summer, when I declared an immigration emergency in the face of tens of thousands of Cuban rafters heading toward our shores, Florida compelled the federal government to change a long-standing policy and to begin interdictions at sea. This new policy announcement is a further indication of Washington's responsiveness to Florida's concerns and needs.

"I understand that this new policy will concern many Floridians. While it allows for a significant but limited number of Cubans to enter the United States, the total number will not exceed a quota already established. A legal, orderly process is in place for individual Cubans to seek refuge into the United States.

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

###

Working Draft

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1995

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCES UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP TO OFFSET COSTS OF RESETTLING CUBAN AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS

MIAMI, FL - - The Community Relations Service (CRS) of the Department of Justice announced today the formation of a unique public-private sector partnership to help in the resettlement of Cubans and Haitians who are paroled into the United States from Safehavens in Guantanamo and Panama.

The CRS, voluntary agencies including the United States Catholic Conference and the Church World Service, and the Ad Hoc Committee Family Reunification Program, are developing a plan by which the Ad Hoc Committee will provide recently arrived Cuban and Haitian parolees sponsorships, educational scholarships, private health insurance and community based services such as housing, food and employment assistance. This assistance will help offset the impact of the new arrivals on federal, state, and local public services.

"The offer of assistance by the Ad Hoc Committee and members of the Cuban-American community in South Florida to the CRS and the voluntary agencies will go a long way toward leading these individuals on a path to becoming productive, self-supporting

members of the community," said Jeffrey Weiss, Acting Director of the Community Relations Service. CRS is responsible for resettling Cubans and Haitians who are granted parole to enter the United States by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This partnership will have no impact on the number of individuals who are granted parole by the INS nor the time frame for their entry into the United States. ¹ Additionally, this partnership does not preclude participation of other individuals~~s~~ or organizations~~s~~ in CRS resettlement efforts.

The AD Hoc Committee Family Reunification Program will identify to voluntary agencies those individuals in South Florida who have agreed to be sponsors. The sponsors and the Ad Hoc Committee will be responsible for providing to Cuban and Haitian migrants health insurance coverage for one year, scholarships to private schools for children from kindergarten through 12th grade, housing and employment assistance, and other community based services.

Justice Draft/ Composed by Ron Tomalis (301) 492-5969

Change 1: from Jeff Weiss via telecon 1330/27 Jan

c:\ press1.doc Longoria files



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW.
Washington, DC 20536

April 18, 1995

The Honorable Alan Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Immigration and Refugee Affairs
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Cuba

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As part of the Administration's ongoing effort to step up removal of criminal aliens, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) this week kicked off a new program in the State of Florida to quadruple the number of criminal alien prisoners we deport from the state each year. I have enclosed information about the program and news clips updating you on our Southwest border activities.

Please do not hesitate to call me or my staff should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doris Meissner

Doris Meissner
Commissioner

Enclosures



FACT SHEET

Contact: Office of Congressional Relations (202)514-5231

April 17, 1995

Institutional Hearing Program (IHP) Enhancement — Florida

- * Increase the number of deportation hearings.
 - * Establishment of a centrally located INS office in Orlando, which will reduce travel time for INS agents to prisons.
 - * Nine new investigators.
 - * Eight new deportation officers.
 - * Appointment of an IHP-Florida Coordinator.
 - * Hearing sites reduced from seven to six.
 - * Hearing sites after the enhancement:
 - Apalachee Correctional Institution — Region I
 - Union Correctional Institution — Region II
 - Central Florida Reception Center — Region III
 - South Florida Reception Center — Region IV
 - Broward Correctional Institution (females only) — Region IV
 - Charlotte Correctional Institution — Region V
 - * Release sites reduced from 46 to 15.
 - * Release sites after the enhancement:
 - Jackson Correctional Institution — Region I
 - Okaloosa Correctional Institution — Region I
 - Jefferson Correctional Institution (females only) — Region I
 - Columbia Correctional Institution — Region II
 - Florida State Prison — Region II
 - Union Correctional Institution — Region II
 - Marion Correctional Institution — Region III
 - Brevard Correctional Institution (youth only) — Region III
 - Florida Correctional Institution (females only) — Region III
-

Dade Correctional Institution — Region IV
Martin Correctional Institution — Region IV
South Florida Reception Center — Region IV
Broward Correctional Institution (females only) — Region IV
Hendry Correctional Institution — Region V
Hardee Correctional Institution — Region V

Criminal Alien Statistics:

- * Criminal aliens deported from Florida in FY 93: 225.
- * Criminal aliens deported from Florida in FY 94: 468.
- * Estimated criminal alien deportations from Florida in FY 95: 700.
- * Estimated criminal alien deportations from Florida in FY 96: 2,200.
- * Incarcerated foreign-born nationals in Florida as of 1/95: 5,504.
- * Estimated deportable foreign-born nationals in Florida as of 1/95: 4,954.

Memorandum of Understanding:

- * On April 7, 1994, the state of Florida and the INS signed a memorandum of understanding that allows the Governor to commute the sentences of non-violent criminal aliens who agree to be deported. Following commutation, EOIR will issue a final order of deportation and INS will expeditiously remove the alien from the United States.

State leads on criminal deportations

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida is considered the national leader in retooling the way state and federal governments handle foreign felons, the head of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said yesterday.

An agreement signed yesterday by INS Commissioner Doris Meissner and Gov. Lawton Chiles will expand deportation hearings for foreign-born nationals housed in state prison to expedite their trip home once they finish their sentences.

"Florida is exercising a position of national leadership in developing a cooperative, innovative partnership with INS," Meissner said.

Florida is the first of seven states to participate with the federal government in the expedited hearing process. The others are California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Arizona and New Jersey.

It is the latest effort by the Chiles administration and INS to rid the

Florida joins partnership with INS

(From Page B-1)

state of foreign-born criminals to make room for homegrown felons.

Another initiative started last year has commuted the sentences of about 300 illegal aliens convicted of nonviolent offenses.

As of yesterday, 281 had been deported under the clemency program with the governor and Cabinet, saving the state an estimated \$13 million. In all, about 400 foreign criminals are eligible for the early release and deportation.

The expedited hearing process unveiled yesterday will resolve the immigration status of foreign prisoners before they complete their sentence.

Under the current system, deportation cases were pending for about

75 percent of the illegal aliens when they completed their sentences. That delays a final decision on deportation for months while the illegal alien either waits in INS custody or is released on bond.

The new agreement reduces the number of state release sites from 46 to 16 and the number of hearing sites from seven to six inside state prisons, Meissner said. When foreign prisoners complete their terms, their immigration status is decided. They are either deported or released.

INS officials estimated the number of foreign criminals deported from Florida will quadruple from 468 last year to 2,200 next year. It will cost \$5.5 million for the expedited hearing process.

"The enhanced hearing program

we're implementing closes the loophole that let too many criminal aliens out on our streets," said Chiles.

The next step Chiles is seeking would let the state send foreign felons to federal prison.

State and federal officials are negotiating the transfer of more than 600 Cuban refugees who landed in state prison after they came to Florida in the Mariel boatlift in 1980.

Chiles said money was the major holdup.

"There's some bucks attached to it," he said. "If Florida asks for this, I'm sure other states are going to ask for it. We think it is the logical, progressive step that should be taken."

APR 18 1995

FLA. TIMES UNION

(See FLORIDA, Page B-3)

The Orlando Sentinel, Tuesday, April 18, 1995

Pact will speed deportation of criminals

By Linda Kleindienst

TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Criminal immigrants taking up space in Florida's prisons will be shipped home at a faster clip under an agreement signed by state and federal officials Monday.

"These criminal aliens came to our country illegally, they broke our laws, and now they must pay," said Gov. Lawton Chiles. He worked out the agreement with Doris Meissner, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"This agreement allows us to move even more inmates through the deportation hearing process at a much faster rate, saving our taxpayers millions and ensuring these criminals will never threaten our communities again," Chiles said.

The state began expediting the deportations of non-violent criminal immigrants last summer. The governor and Cabinet initiated the deportations by allowing the inmates to get out of prison before their sentences had been fully served.

Of 322 criminals who have had their sentences commuted, 281 already have been shipped home. Deporting all 322 will save the state about \$13 million in prison costs. The deportations also will free space for

other prisoners.

INS has promised to hire more immigration judges, investigators and lawyers to speed up the process, which could lead to getting 2,800 criminals deported by the end of next year.

At any one time, there are about 5,000 criminal immigrants in Florida's prisons. The new agreement, however, does not address the 550 criminals who entered the United States during the Mariel boat lift. Because the United States has no diplomatic relations with Cuba, Cuban inmates cannot be deported home.

The state has been trying to work out an agreement with the Department of Justice that would at least transfer Cuban prisoners into federal facilities.

"We're working on it because there are some bucks attached to it," Chiles said.

Improvements called for under the agreement signed Monday include:

- Increasing the number of deportation hearings held.

- Hiring 17 more agents and deportation officers.

- Establishing a tracking system to determine where inmates are in the deportation process.

- Setting up an INS office in Orlando as a central location for INS personnel responsible for the program.

IDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1995
THE HERALD 58

P OF NEWS IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

GULF COAST

Ruling left intact

The U.S. Supreme Court, without comment, left intact a ruling that declared unconstitutional Citrus County's ordinance requiring licenses for nude dancing clubs and adult bookstores, rejecting the sheriff's argument that the law did not violate free-speech rights.



Outlaws trial starts

Jury selection began in the trial of 16 members of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club, marking the third major attack on the group in recent years; a larger-than-normal jury pool of 200 was called for the Tampa trial that includes murder and racketeering charges.



TALLAHASSEE

Appeal turned down

The U.S. Supreme Court refused, without comment, to hear two appeals by Death Row inmate Aileen Wuornos, a former prostitute who has admitted killing seven men in 1989 and 1990; Wuornos is facing six death sentences, the most of any inmate in Florida.



Pact should double inmate deportations

By MARK SILVA
Capital Bureau Chief

TALLAHASSEE — A stepped-up effort to deport undocumented immigrants serving time in Florida's prisons should double the number of criminals being sent home to their countries, federal and state authorities say.

At the same time, the federal government is developing a plan to transfer about 650 undocumented Cuban-born convicts from state prisons to federal lock-ups.

according to Commissioner Doris Meissner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Gov. Lawton Chiles.

"We see that as the next big step that we're working on," Meissner said Monday of negotiations to move undocumented Cuban-born prisoners from state to federal penitentiaries. "This is a conversation that's under way between the federal government and the state of Florida."

Hearings expedited

Since last spring, under an

agreement between Chiles and the INS, the government has been expediting deportation hearings for hundreds of "nonviolent" convicts in Florida's prisons. These are people who committed crimes in Florida after entering the country without documentation. State prisons hold about 5,000 such convicts.

None of these deportations involve inmates who came to Florida in the 1980 boatlift from Mariel because the United States has no treaty with Cuba allowing for their return.

Under the agreement, Gov. Lawton Chiles and the Cabinet have granted commutations of sentences for some of the convicts sentenced for nonviolent crimes, such as drug trafficking — only on condition that they leave the country.

Sentences commuted

So far, they have commuted sentences for 322 undocumented immigrants; the governor's office says, and the INS has deported 281 of them.

"A one-way ticket out of the country," Chiles calls the program.

The prison terms for some of these people expired before INS could finish proceedings leading to their deportation, Chiles said.

The new effort will speed up proceedings, Meissner said.

More put to work

Now — in California, Texas, New York and Illinois, as well as Florida — Meissner said the INS is putting more people to work on the deportations.

This will mean 17 additional investigators and hearing officers working out of a new INS office in Orlando, Meissner said. It will mean deportation hearings inside prisons — with screenings at the South Florida Reception Center in Dade, Broward Correctional Institution and four other prisons.

"It will allow us to double the number" of deportations from Florida's prisons, Meissner said, signing the agreement with Chiles.

The next stage of Florida's negotiations with the INS and federal Bureau of Prisons involves finding new homes for the 650 Cuban-born convicts who can't be deported under the INS agreements.

Meissner said it's too early in these talks to say when the transfers will happen.

Chiles said the idea is to move the convicts from state to federal custody.



Meissner

THE PALM BEACH POST TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1995

Immigration chief predicts no Haitian, Cuban exodus

By BILL DOUTHAT
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The nation's immigration chief said Monday she does not expect a repeat of last year's refugee waves into Florida from Haiti and Cuba.

"The situation this year is entirely different," Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner said in a news conference with Gov. Lawton Chiles to announce an agreement to speed deportation of undocumented immigrants in Florida's prisons.

Meissner said the threat of new refugee waves has been lessened by the restoration of democracy in Haiti and a promise from Cuban President Fidel Castro to deter Cubans leaving the islands for the United States.

On Sunday, 115 Haitians were found hidden in a freighter off Miami attempting to enter the country.

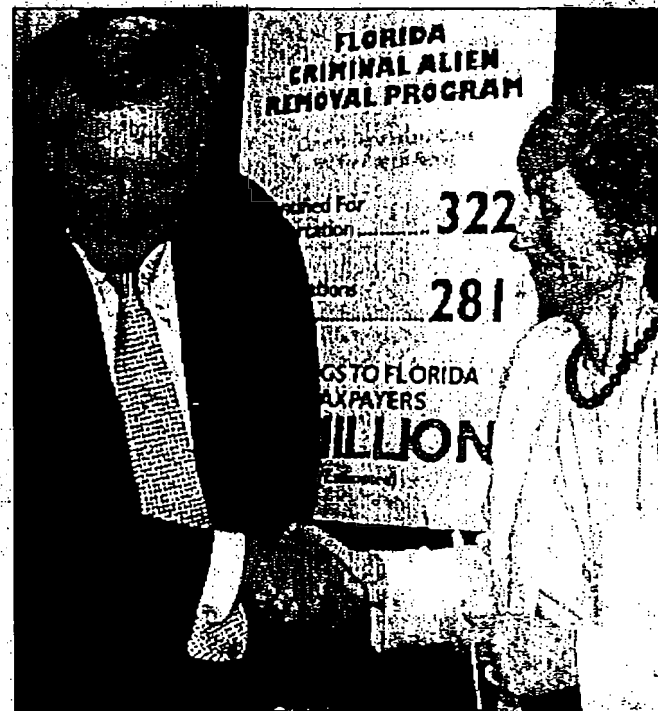
STATE NEWS

"We don't view these arrivals as any kind of a beginning of a large migration," Meissner said.

The agreement signed by Meissner and Chiles allows deportation hearings to be held in prisons before inmates finish their sentences. The INS is hiring 17 agents and hearing officers for the program.

About 300 nonviolent criminal immigrants once held in Florida prisons have been deported since the state began giving commutations of sentences for those who agreed to leave the country. Holding hearings at the prisons could lead to the deportation of up to 2,200 a year.

"These criminals came to our country illegally, they broke our laws and now we want them to go home," said Chiles.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Lawton Chiles and U.S. immigration Commissioner Doris Meissner announce an agreement to speed deportation on Monday in Tallahassee.

LEGISLATURE '95

Agreement will put imprisoned aliens on the move

By LINDA KLEINDIENST
Tallahassee Bureau Chief

TALLAHASSEE — Criminal aliens taking up space in Florida's prisons will be shipped home at a faster clip under a new agreement signed by state and federal officials on Monday.

"These criminal aliens came to our country illegally, they broke our laws and now they must pay,"

said Gov. Lawton Chiles, who worked out the details with Doris Meisner, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"This agreement allows us to move even more inmates through the deportation hearing process at a much faster rate, saving our taxpayers millions and ensuring these criminals will never threaten our communities again."

The state began expediting the deportation of nonviolent criminal aliens last summer. The governor and Cabinet initiated the deportations by allowing the criminals out of prison before their sentences had been completed.

Of 322 criminals whose sentences have been commuted, 281 have been sent home, and the others remain incarcerated while

their cases are pending.

INS has promised to hire more immigration judges, investigators and attorneys to speed up the process, which could lead to 2,208 criminals being deported by the end of next year.

The new agreement does not address the 550 criminals who entered the United States during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Because the U.S. government has no diplo-

matic relations with Cuba, those inmates cannot be deported.

Improvements called for under the agreement signed on Monday:

- Increase the number of deportation hearings.
- Hire 17 additional agents and deportation officers.
- Reduce the number of hearing locations and release sites.
- Establish a tracking system to determine where inmates are

in the deportation process.

■ Set up an INS office in Orlando as a central staging location for INS personnel.

Many inmates scheduled for deportation are released from prison while their DHS case is still pending. Under the new agreement, deportation hearings will be conducted in state prisons while the criminal is incarcerated.

Pacto acelerará deportación de presos en Florida

Por MARK SILVA
Redactor de El Nuevo Herald

Tallahassee - Un nuevo esfuerzo para deportar a los inmigrantes indocumentados que cumplen condenas en las prisiones de la Florida, debería duplicar el número de delincuentes devueltos a sus países, dijeron autoridades federales y del estado.

Al mismo tiempo, el gobierno federal está desarrollando un plan para transferir a unos 650 convictos indocumentados de origen cubano de prisiones estatales a cárceles federales, según la congresista Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS), y el gobernador Lawton Chiles.

"Consideramos este el próximo gran paso que estamos preparando", dijo Meissner el lunes, refiriéndose a las negociaciones para trasladar a los prisioneros indocumentados de origen cubano de las prisiones del estado a las federales. "Es algo que se está conversando entre el gobierno federal y el estado de la Florida".

Desde la primavera pasada, según un acuerdo entre Chiles y el INS, el gobierno ha estado acelerando las audiencias de deportación para cientos de



Chiles

Desde la primavera pasada, según un acuerdo entre Chiles y el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS), el gobierno ha estado acelerando las audiencias de deportación para cientos de condenados 'no violentos' que están en las prisiones de la Florida.

condenados "no violentos" que están en las prisiones de la Florida. Son gente que ha cometido delitos en la Florida después de entrar al país sin documentación. Las prisiones del estado albergan a unos 5,000 de estos convictos.

Ninguna de estas deportaciones incluye a los reclusos que vinieron a la Florida durante el puente marítimo del Mariel en 1980 porque Estados Unidos no tiene ningún tratado con Cuba que permita su regreso.

Bajo el acuerdo, Chiles y el gabinete garantizan la continuación de sus penas a algunos de los con-

denados por delitos no violentos, como tráfico de drogas, sólo a condición de que abandonen el país. Hasta ahora, se les han convertido las sentencias a 322 inmigrantes indocumentados, según la oficina del gobernador. El INS ha deportado a 281 de estas personas.

"Un boleto de ida sin regreso para salir del país", le llama Chiles al programa.

Las penas de prisión de algunas de estas personas expiraron antes de que el INS pudiera terminar los procedimientos conducentes a su deportación, dijo Chiles. El nuevo esfuerzo acelerará los procedi-

mientos, dijo Meissner.

El INS está poniendo más gente a trabajar en las deportaciones en California, Texas, Nueva York e Illinois, explicó Meissner.

Esto significará 17 investigadores y funcionarios de audiencias más, que trabajarán fuera de una nueva oficina del INS situada en Orlando, dijo Meissner. Y significará audiencias de deportación dentro de las prisiones, con procedimientos en el Centro de Recepción del Sur de la Florida, en Dade; la Institución Correccional de Broward y otras cárceles prisioneras.

"Esto nos permitirá duplicar el número de deportaciones de las prisiones de la Florida", dijo Meissner el lunes, al firmar el nuevo acuerdo con Chiles.

El próximo paso en las negociaciones de la Florida con el INS y la Oficina Federal de Prisiones, será buscar nuevos lugares para albergar a los 650 convictos de origen cubano que no pueden ser deportados bajo los acuerdos del INS. Meissner dijo que es muy pronto en las conversaciones para decir cuándo ocurrirá esto.

Chiles indicó que la idea es trasladar a estos reclusos de la custodia estatal a la federal.

Feds hail deal on criminal aliens

■ Florida's agreement with the INS will expand deportation hearings for aliens housed in the state's prisons.

The Associated Press
TALLAHASSEE — Florida is considered the national leader in retooling the way state and federal governments handle foreign felons, the head of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said Monday.

An agreement signed Monday by INS Commissioner Doris Meissner and Gov. Lawton Chiles will expand deportation hearings for foreign-born nationals housed in state prison to expedite their trip home once they finish their sentences.

"Florida is exercising a position of national leadership in developing a cooperative, innovative partnership with INS," Meissner said at a news conference.

Florida is the first of seven states to participate with the federal government in the expedited hearing process. The others are California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Arizona and New Jersey.

It is the latest effort by the Chiles administration and INS to rid the state of criminal aliens to make room for homegrown felons.

The enhanced hearing program we're implementing closes the loophole that let too many criminal aliens out on our streets," said Chiles.

The next step Chiles is seeking would let the state send foreign felons to federal prison.

Another initiative started last year has commuted the sentences of about 300 illegal aliens convicted of nonviolent offenses.

As of Monday, 281 aliens had been deported under the See DEPORT on Page 4A



Gov. Chiles said the agreement "closes the loophole that let too many criminal aliens out on our streets."

DEPORT

continued from Page 1A

clemency program with the governor and Cabinet, saving the state an estimated \$13 million. In all, about 400 criminal aliens are eligible for the early release and deportation.

The expedited hearing process unveiled Monday will resolve the immigration status of foreign prisoners before they complete their sentence.

Under the current system, deportation cases were pending for about 75 percent of the illegal aliens when they completed their sentences. That delays a final decision on deportation for several months while the illegal alien either waits in INS custody or is released on bond.

The new agreement reduces the number of state release sites from 46 to 15 and the number of hearing sites from seven to six inside state prisons, Meissner said. When criminal aliens complete their terms, their immigration status is decided. They are either deported or released.

INS officials estimated the number of criminal aliens deported from Florida

will quadruple from 488 last year to 2,200 next year. It will cost \$5.5 million for the expedited hearing process.

State and federal officials are negotiating the transfer of more than 800 Cuban refugees who landed in state prison after they came to Florida in the Mariel boatlift in 1980.

"That's a subject that's under discussion," Meissner said.

Chiles said money was the major holdup.

"There's some bucks attached to it," he said. "If Florida asks for this, I'm sure other states are going to ask for it. We think it is the logical, progressive step that should be taken."

The state is preparing to take a step in another effort to deport illegal aliens who commit crimes.

A pilot project by state attorneys in Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties identified more than 2,000 illegal foreigners who were charged with crimes.

Palm Beach now will begin developing a model to deport individuals instead of sending them through the court system and eventually prison, said Mark Schlakman, the governor's special counsel.

date: 4-13-95

The New York Times

At Border, Mexican Migrants Wait and Worry

By TIM GOLDEN

SANTO DOMINGO, Mexico — The years of hard labor that people from this desert town have done in the restaurant kitchens and the lettuce fields of California have crowded Santo Domingo's streets with pickup trucks and put satellite dishes on some of the adobe homes.

About one-quarter of the 13,000 residents of this town in north-central Mexico live mostly "on the other side," as they call the United States.

And with a small empire of Mexican restaurants scattered among the migrants in the United States, there are always jobs there to beckon the young men and women who are of age in Santo Domingo with much hope of finding work at home.

People here say they have been thinking harder about heading north in the three months since the devaluation of the peso sent inflation soaring, the economy into recession and thousands of workers to the unemployment lines. But many here also say the decision is not as easy as it once seemed.

"The dollar is the only thing that is going up now," said Agustín Chávez, a 22-year-old elementary school teacher. "But everyone says it is harder to get to the other side. It costs you much more. It is not like before."

Despite a sharp increase recently in the number of migrants caught sneaking into the United States, it is still far from clear that Mexico's economic turmoil will flood the United States with illegal job-seekers.

For poor Mexicans wanting to emigrate, the cost of getting to job markets in California, Chicago or New York has risen considerably, according to dozens of would-be immigrants interviewed along the border in Tijuana and in two central Mexican states, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas.

Even in communities like Santo Domingo, where travel back and forth from the United States remains a way of life, there is anecdotal evidence that the United States Border Patrol's increased enforce-

ment efforts around San Ysidro, Calif., and El Paso are beginning to discourage some Mexicans from even trying to cross the border.

The permanent settlement in the United States of many Mexicans who used to come and go seasonally has also reduced the pool of potential migrants.

And for those Mexicans with relatives sending money back from the United States, the value of those dollars has risen sharply with the peso's devaluation.

"People are still alive here thanks to the money that comes from the United States," said the Mayor of Santo Domingo, Álvaro Rodríguez Luna. "Things balance out. The prices go up, but the money that comes from the other side has also gone up."

Clinton Administration officials cited the threat of illegal immigration as a critical reason for the \$20 billion United States contribution to a \$50 billion international loan package for Mexico.

In mid-January, the Treasury Department estimated that "a protracted economic crisis" in Mexico could mean an increase of more than 30 percent in illegal immigration, or about half a million new economic refugees a year.

That Mexico faces a serious economic crisis is unquestioned; how long it will last remains to be seen. The Government of President Ernesto Zedillo has forecast a 2 percent shrinkage of the economy this year, and the loss of about a million of the country's 26 million jobs.

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, arrests by Border Patrol officers along the United States-Mexican border were 9.6 percent higher in January than during January 1994. In February, the increase was 37.6 percent; in March, 40 percent.

But such figures may be deceptive. Most obviously, the numbers do not necessarily reflect the real flow of undocumented migrants because the Border Patrol has traditionally counted arrests rather than individuals, who are often apprehended more than once.

The jump in arrests is probably in part a consequence of a bigger and more effective Border Patrol: more agents, the redeployment of others and the addition of equipment like night-vision scopes, electronic sensors and better radios.

The migrant traffic is also shifting: more Mexicans are sneaking into the United States in less-patrolled areas like Nogales, Ariz., and Del Rio, Texas, and more are using forged identity documents to pass through checkpoints.

The young urban Mexicans who are increasingly supplanting the seasonal farm workers of past migrations may be more able to pay for such documents.

But looking ahead, a more effective Border Patrol and a growing hostility toward undocumented immigrants in California and other border states will likely discourage at least some Mexicans from leaving home.

Draped over a tree limb near the Tijuana airport as he peered over a metal fence at San Ysidro, Calif., Adrián López Arana seemed a case in point.

Hoping to join a brother who was making \$100 a day as a construction worker in Los Angeles, Mr. López, a 23-year-old mason from Morelia, said he had been caught by the Border Patrol two days earlier and dumped back in Tijuana. He had spent a good chunk of his savings on buses, hotels and food, he said, and the coyote, or smuggler, whom he had hired to lead him across had absconded with an advance that Mr. López had given him.

"I'm going home," he moaned. "My brother said all I had to do was find a coyote at the bus station and I would be there the next day. He didn't tell me about this."

In the farming village of San José de Caligüey, near Santo Domingo, young men who had been back and forth to the United States before said that not only was the crossing more difficult, but the cost was becoming almost prohibitive.

2

"I would go tomorrow but I don't have the money," said Mario Loera, 22. "It used to cost you 300 pesos to get to Ciudad Juárez and \$100 for the coyote. Now it is double. That is two or three cows, and I do not have any."

Whatever the Border Patrol's success, most experts believe that Mexico's economic troubles will inevitably bring some increase in the flow of migrants, and history suggests as much. In 1993, the year after the collapse of the Mexican economy led Latin American into its debt crisis, the arrests of undocumented immigrants in the United States rose about 35 percent.

Yet a study that compared the probability of immigration in the relatively prosperous period between 1975 and 1980 to the five years thereafter found a rise of only about 15 percent, according to the author, Manuel Garcia y Griego, a demographer at the University of California at Irvine.

"I think it would be foolish to assign all of the increase, or even most of it, to economic considerations," Dr. Garcia y Griego said of the rise in Border Patrol arrests. "I don't think we can ignore the impact of the devaluation, but that impact has not played out yet."

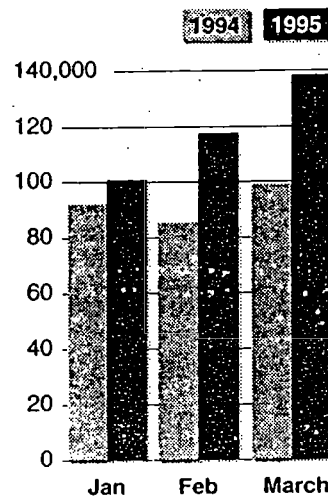
Part of what has changed since Mexico's economic troubles in the 1980's, noted another American immigration expert, Wayne A. Cornelius of the University of California at San Diego, is that many Mexicans who sought jobs in the United States in earlier times have stayed in the north under the amnesty of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

Many of those Mexicans are no longer sending dollars back to their relatives, but a boom in the transfer of such remittances by others suggests that the stronger dollar may keep other potential migrants at home in Mexico.

BY THE NUMBERS

Halted at the Border

Total detentions of illegal immigrants by the U.S. Border Patrol along the border with Mexico increased substantially during the first three months of this year, compared with the same months a year earlier.



Source:
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

The New York Times

Date: 4-12-95

The San Diego

Union-Tribune

Ugly border battles

Showdown between the INS and Rep. Hunter

The border duel last week wasn't the usual one between the Border Patrol and illegal immigrants. It was between the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon.

This politicization of the border is not welcome. Border policy, like foreign policy, should be based on reasoned analysis and consensus, not the grubby search for partisan advantage. You don't get better border policy by turning it into a political football.

Doris Meissner, INS commissioner, came to town to praise Operation Gatekeeper, noting that since February arrests of illegal crossers had gone up 25 percent compared with last year.

The sharpest reduction in illegal immigration, she said, was at its center, in the Imperial Beach region.

Well, maybe. Statistics on illegal immigration are tricky, since you don't know whether an increase in apprehensions is good or bad news. Maybe more illegals are being caught because more are coming, which, with Mexico's financial crisis, wouldn't be a surprise.

But the spectacle of Hunter tracking Meissner like a bird dog on the scent wasn't pretty. Hunter's news was that House Speaker Newt Gingrich had approved his bill to build a three-tier fence along the border, with a Border Patrol agent for every 100 yards.

Meissner and local INS officials gave Hunter's plan the scorn it fully deserves. Modeled after an El Paso program, it is unsuitable for San Diego's topography. It would wall off Mexico and so deplete Border Patrol ranks that no agents would be left for interior enforcement, such as stopping the hir-

ing of illegal workers. With advancements in technology, that is the key to halting the flow of illegals.

The professionals say the rugged local terrain has nothing in common with El Paso, where the Rio Grande forms a natural frontier. San Diego's 66-mile border consists of 37 miles of mountains, 10 miles of hilly brushland, eight miles of urban hills, four miles of canyons and very little flatland.

A healthy debate on immigration policy has the virtue of airing the issues so the public can make an informed policy decision. But Hunter's blustering style, plus a history of jingoism that ignores the complex economic relationship between California and Mexico, does not serve the cause.

Rep. Brian Bilbray, R-Imperial Beach, says he will co-sponsor Hunter's bill. Don't, Brian. The choice between Hunter's "Berlin Wall" and Meissner's combination Gatekeeper and interior enforcement is no choice at all. Hunter could (and probably would) build a wall around the entire American periphery and still not solve the problem, because half of America's illegal immigrants arrive here legally.

Presence on the border is a deterrent, and should be strengthened.

But stopping illegal immigration will come primarily through interior enforcement — that is, by halting the employment of illegal immigrants, drying up the flow at the source. Fifty percent of the INS' budget increase this year went into new technology, including work on a computerized registry that will enable employers to detect forged documents.

That, not fortress America, is a policy that is morally acceptable and will work.



News Release

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
Phone (202) 514-2648

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 17, 1995

Cuba

INS, FLORIDA IMPLEMENT NEW PLAN TO BOOST CRIMINAL ALIEN DEPORTATIONS

The number of criminal aliens deported directly from Florida prisons will increase dramatically under a plan announced today by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the State of Florida.

Under the program, the number of criminal aliens deported immediately upon completion of their criminal sentence in Florida is expected to more than quadruple from 468 deported in Fiscal Year 1994 to an estimated 2,200 in Fiscal Year 1996.

"This agreement is an important part of a nationwide effort to insure that criminal aliens are not only taken off the street but out of the country," said INS Commissioner Doris Meissner. "The Administration intends to triple the deportation of both criminal and non-criminal aliens nationwide from 37,000 in 1993 to more than 110,000 in 1996."

---MORE---

Enhanced IHP
Add 1

Commissioner Meissner, Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles and Anthony Moscato, director of the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) signed the agreement implementing the Enhanced Institutional Hearing Program (Enhanced IHP) in a ceremony at the state capitol in Tallahassee.

The program expedites the administrative deportation hearings of criminal aliens in Florida prisonss, allowing INS and EOIR (the Immigration courts) to conduct those hearings in state facilities while the alien is still serving a criminal sentence. If a final order of deportation is obtained, the alien can be deported immediately after completion of the criminal sentence.

The enhancement establishes an INS office in Orlando which will serve as a centralized staging location for INS officers supporting the program. INS will also hire 17 additional agents and deportation officers to handle the increased case load. The IHP will be streamlined and centralized by reducing the number of alien release sites from 46 to 15 and the immigration hearing locations from seven to six.

The IHP focuses on all criminal aliens, including those convicted of aggravated felonies or violent crimes. It complements the program INS and Florida initiated in April of 1994. That program enables the Governor to grant conditional commutations to non-violent criminal aliens who concede deportability.

---MORE---

Enhanced IHP

ADD 2

The immigration court then issues a final order of deportation and INS removes the alien from the United States. As of today, 281 non-violent criminal aliens have been removed under the commutation program.

--INS--

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 2, 1995

JOINT STATEMENT

The United States of America and the Republic of Cuba have reached agreement on steps to normalize further their migration relationship. These steps build upon the September 9, 1994 agreement and seek to address safety and humanitarian concerns and to ensure that migration between the countries is safe, legal, and orderly.

Humanitarian Parole

The United States and the Republic of Cuba recognize the special circumstances of Cuban migrants currently at Guantanamo Bay. Accordingly, the two governments have agreed that the process of humanitarian parole into the United States should continue beyond those eligible for parole under existing criteria. The two governments agree that if the United States carries out such paroles, it may count them towards meeting the minimum number of Cubans it is committed to admit every year pursuant to the September 9, 1994 agreement. Up to 5,000 such paroles may be counted towards meeting the minimum number in any one year period beginning September 9, 1995, regardless of when the migrants are paroled into the United States.

Safety of Life at Sea

The United States and the Republic of Cuba reaffirm their common interest in preventing unsafe departures from Cuba. Effective immediately, Cuban migrants intercepted at sea by the United States and attempting to enter the United States will be taken to Cuba. Similarly, migrants found to have entered Guantanamo illegally will also be returned to Cuba. The United States and the Republic of Cuba will cooperate jointly in this effort. All actions taken will be consistent with the parties' international obligations. Migrants taken to Cuba will be informed by United States officials about procedures to apply for legal admission to the United States at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

The United States and the Republic of Cuba will ensure that no action is taken against those migrants returned to Cuba as a consequence of their attempt to immigrate illegally. Both parties will work together to facilitate the procedures necessary to implement these measures. The United States and the Republic of Cuba agree to the return to Cuba of Cuban nationals currently at Guantanamo who are ineligible for admission to the United States.

September 9, 1994 Agreement

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agree that the provisions of the September 9, 1994 agreement remain in effect, except as modified by the present Joint Statement. In particular, both sides reaffirm their joint commitment to take steps to prevent unsafe departures from Cuba which risk loss of human life and to oppose acts of violence associated with illegal immigration.