

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

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Folder Title:

Cuba File 1996 [binder] [1]

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: Contacts from Dade County [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	04/27/1996	b(6)
002. cable	re: Victims of Iran air flight 655 (Personal) (3 pages)	06/07/1989	b(6)
003. list	re: Contacts from Dade County [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	04/27/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Cuba File 1996 [binder] [1]

2016-0920-F

jm1916

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]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) 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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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cuba File '96

G. Families/Shoot Down

- 1. Memos**
- 2. News Clippings**

H. Cuba Envoy

- 1. Memos**
- 2. News Clippings**
- 3. Letters**

I. Rafters Aug.

- 1. Memos**
- 2. News Clippings**

J. Nuccio

- 1. Memos**
- 2. News Clippings**

Cuba File '96

En San José, California

INS inaugura nuevo centro para ciudadanos

Un total de dos mil 400 nuevos ciudadanos fueron juramentados en dos ceremonias separadas que tuvieron lugar en San José, California, el miércoles 19 de junio, informaron fuentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización de los Estados Unidos.

Los nuevos ciudadanos fueron juramentados por Juez Federal del Distrito Edward Infante, en la que el orador principal fue el Director de la Región Occidental del INS, Gus de la Viña.

Viña también cortó la cinta que dio por inauguradas el nuevo centro de ciudadanía localizado en la Torre del Centro Cívico de San José, California. El nuevo Centro tiene una capacidad de procesar más de 500 aplicaciones para ciudadanía diariamente, la que establecida como parte del programa Citizenship USA. Además del centro de San José, también existen los centros establecidos

con anterioridad en Los Angeles, Nueva York, Miami y Chicago.

"Para finales del verano, más de un millón de nuevos ciudadanos serán juramentados en todo el país, el doble del número que se juramentaron en 1995", dijo De la Viña. "El establecimientos de centros de ciudadanía como el de San José es una parte crucial e integral de nuestro esfuerzo para ayudar a inmigrantes elegibles a que se conviertan en nuevos ciudadanos".

El nuevo centro de San José triplicará el número de entrevistas para ciudadanía que se estaban realizando cada mes, que en el mes de junio ya suman 8,000 entrevistas.

"Este centro es un tributo a la creatividad y determinación de los trabajadores del INS en San José, este es un momento de orgullo para nosotros", dijo Tom Schitgers, Director del INS en San Francisco, a cuya jurisdicción pertenece el nuevo centro.

En incendio de iglesias

Washington Hispanic

6/21/96

Clinton descarta conspiración

El presidente Clinton descartó esta semana la existencia de una conspiración en el incendio intencional de iglesias de feligreses afroamericanos, registrados en los estados del sur del país en los últimos 18 meses.

Al presidir una reunión con ocho gobernadores sureños, el mandatario aceptó, sin embargo, que atrás de los siniestros hay motivos racistas que reflejan los actuales conflictos raciales en Estados Unidos.

"Creo que muchos de los incidentes fueron motivados por sentimientos racistas, y que tienden a repetirse de un caso a otro, pero no porque no estén relacionados significa que no los rechazemos en su conjunto", expresó Clinton.

Desde enero de 1995, el sur estadounidense se ha visto abatido por una ola de incendios intencionales que han tendido como objetivo iglesias de feligreses afroamericanos.

En los últimos 18 meses, de acuerdo a las cifras del Buró de

Alcohol, Tabaco y Armas de Fuego (ATF por sus siglas en inglés), agencia federal encargada de investigar los siniestros, se han registrado un total de 38 incendios intencionales.

Los ataques contra las iglesias afroamericanas recuerdan casos similares perpetrados durante las décadas de los años 50 y 60 por grupos como el Ku Klux Klan, que mediante los ataques pretendían frenar la lucha por los derechos civiles de la población negra estadounidense.

Clinton junto con los gobernadores y la procuradora Janet Reno, discutieron estrategias para atrapar a los responsables de los incendios y procesarlos de acuerdo a la ley.

Entre los temas analizados durante la reunión, en la que también estuvieron presente congresistas demócratas y republicanos, destacó la canalización de 12 millones de dólares para un acampaña tendiente a reducir los ataques.

3 Cuban Hijackers, Pilot Rescued After Crashing

Passengers Seek Asylum as U.S. Probes Incident

Reuter

MIAMI, Aug. 16—Three Cuban hijackers apparently used a knife today to force the pilot of a small plane to fly to the west coast of Florida, where the aircraft crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Coast Guard and Customs officials said.

All four Cubans aboard were rescued by a lifeboat dispatched from a nearby Russian freighter.

The three Cuban passengers immediately asked for political asylum, while the pilot said he wanted to return home, according to Russian crew members interviewed by U.S. officials.

At the time of the crash, Customs agents said they were pursuing and videotaping the unidentified small plane as a possible drug smuggler.

"We will definitely explore this as possible drug smuggling, but all indications at this point are that it was not drug-related," said Customs spokesman Mike Sheehan.

Customs radar controllers detected the small aircraft at 9:10 a.m. EDT and dispatched a Cessna Citation jet to intercept it. The Customs airplane followed the suspicious Cuban aircraft for more than an hour and videotaped its movements until the small plane jettisoned its two doors and crashed into the ocean.

The plane was described by officials as a single-engine Polish "Wilga" airplane, a six-seater often used as a platform for parachute jumpers.

Customs pilots were told by officers aboard the Russian ship that the pilot of the aircraft claimed he was hijacked by the three passengers who used a gun or a knife, Sheehan said. "The three passengers apparently admitted hijacking the aircraft, but they say that no weapons were involved."

The Russian freighter Irbenskiy Proliv was about 50 miles west of Naples, Fla., when its crew saw the plane crash. Crew members sent a motorized life boat to rescue the four.

The hijackers claimed that they had conducted an airdrop of political pamphlets protesting the Feb. 24 shooting down of two Cuban exile airplanes flown by Brothers to the

"We don't know why the plane ditched in the ocean. It could have run out of gas or had mechanical problems, or the pilot may just have decided to intentionally ditch it," Woodring said.

The identities and ages of the four Cuban nationals were not immediately available.

U.S. immigration officials were to interview the Cubans to determine if any could apply for political asylum.

U.S. Customs agents regularly

"We don't know why the plane ditched. ... The pilot may just have decided to intentionally ditch it."

— Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Woodring,
Coast Guard

pursue small unidentified airplanes heading into Florida airspace, Sheehan said.

"If we cannot identify the plane on radar, and if it's coming from the south, we have to think it's a dooper," he said. "And whenever a plane jettisons its doors, it looks to us like it could be an airdrop of drugs."

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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The hijackers claimed that they had conducted an airdrop of political pamphlets protesting the Feb. 24 shooting down of two Cuban exile airplanes flown by Brothers to the Rescue, Sheehan said.

The plane apparently was hijacked after it left Guanabacoa, Cuba, this morning, according to Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Woodring. A Coast Guard patrol boat was sent to pick up the Cubans from the freighter, he said.

"We don't know why the plane ditched in the ocean. It could have run out of gas or had mechanical problems, or the pilot may just have decided to intentionally ditch it," Woodring said.

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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



Monday, April 29, 1996

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Burritos

Redskin Potatoes

Fresh Fruit

Orange Juice

ALL FOOD ITEMS ABOARD AF-1 ARE PREPARED WITH
LO-FAT OR NO FAT INGREDIENTS

Air Force One

Cuba

- The Administration's policy is to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba, provide support to Cuban people and independent groups that seek change, and keep migration as safe and orderly as possible.
- We are implementing the Libertad Act (Helms-Burton) in a manner that maximizes pressure on the Castro government while minimizing tensions with our friends and allies.
 - The President has suspended the right to file private actions under Title III, allowing us time to work with our allies on concrete steps to promote democracy in Cuba. The EU last December approved a historic "Common Position" conditioning improved relations with Cuba on real progress toward democracy and respect for human rights.
 - Under Title IV, executives of two companies have been barred from entering the United States, and senior officers of two dozen other firms are under investigation for "trafficking" in confiscated Cuban properties.
 - The regime's angry reaction to the President's report on "Support for a Democratic Transition in Cuba," mandated by Title II, is proof that it hit a raw nerve.
- The Administration is supporting efforts to strengthen civil society in Cuba through increased people-to-people contacts and information flows. We have approved one grant (for Freedom House) for \$500,000 to distribute informational materials. We have approved licenses for 10 U.S. news organizations to open bureaus in Cuba, although only one (CNN) has received Cuban permission to do so.
- We continue to implement the September 1994 and May 1995 Migration Accords, returning and monitoring the treatment of migrants interdicted at sea -- while ensuring that those with significant fear of persecution are not repatriated but provided third-country resettlement.

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[001]

RICARDO MENDEZ

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

MIRTA MENDEZ

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

EDILFA PEREZ

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

MAGGIE KHULY

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

MARLENE V. ALEJANDRE

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

MARLENE ALEJANDRE

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

ANA CIERESZKO

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

RAQUEL PEREZ

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

ESTER ROSAL

SS

DOB

(b)(6)

Dade County

Miami Aviation Dept. Director of traffic

305-266-9500 (h) 305-552-7679

Ocean Bank - Bank Officer

Assistant President

cell (305) 632-5151

Dade County Courts

Senior Justice Support Administrator

(305) 661-0301

Architect - Khuly and Asso.

305-666-9375 661-4611

Intensive Dept. South Miami Hospital

Student - University of Florida

Dropped semester due

(305) 237-7469 (305) 661-2145

Dade Int'l Leadership Development Council

ran for elected

Miami Dade Com Coll. Professor

Workman

Kandall Downham

Bayer

305-717-9000

(305) 261-0146 264-0974

Cousin of Maria de la Penia

305-945-7534 or 220-2483

Grandmother of Maria de la Penia

Minerva de la Penia

(F) 267-9401

(A) Maggie Khuly P.
662-1500 662-1222
Want justice expedited

Want to know Perez's supports is

" " Show " what kind of people they are.

Juan
579-
2292
2292
5400ANDRUCIA
BAKERYde la
Penia

Alexandre family — the wife might
have been divorced
if so money should
go to daughter

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 26, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Briefing Room

4:00 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Two days ago, in broad daylight and without justification, Cuban military aircraft shot down two civilian planes in international airspace. Search and rescue efforts by the Coast Guard, which began immediately after we received word of the incident, have failed to find any of the four individuals who were aboard the airplanes.

These small airplanes were unarmed and clearly so. Cuban authorities knew that. The planes posed no credible threat to Cuba's security. Although the group that operated the planes had entered Cuban airspace in the past on other flights, this is no excuse for the attack, and provides -- let me emphasize -- no legal basis under international law for the attack. We must be clear: This shooting of civilian aircraft out of the air was a flagrant violation of international law. It is wrong and the United States will not tolerate it.

Saturday's attack is further evidence that Havana has become more desperate in its efforts to deny freedom to the people of Cuba. Also on Saturday the Cuban Council, a broad group that wants to bring democracy to Cuba, had planned a day of peaceful discussion and debate. Instead, in the days leading up to this gathering, scores of activists were arrested and detained. Two have already been sentenced to long prison terms. They join about 1,000 others in Cuba who were in jail solely because of their desire for freedom. Now the downing of these planes demands a firm response from both the United States and the international community. I am pleased that the European Union today strongly condemned the action.

Last night, on my instructions, Ambassador Albright convened an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Cuban action and to present the case for sanctions on Cuba until it agrees to abide by its obligation to respect civilian aircraft and until it compensates the families of the victims.

Today, I am also ordering the following unilateral actions. First, I am asking that Congress pass legislation that will provide immediate compensation to the families, something to which they are entitled under international law, out of Cuba's blocked assets here in the United States. If Congress passes this legislation, we can provide the compensation immediately.

Second, I will move promptly to reach agreement with the Congress on the pending Helms-Burton Cuba legislation so that it will enhance the effectiveness of the embargo in a way that advances the cause of democracy in Cuba.

Third, I have ordered that Radio Marti expand its reach. All the people of Cuba must be able to learn the truth about the regime in Havana -- the isolation it has earned for itself through its contempt for basic human rights and international law.

- 2 -

Fourth, I am ordering that additional restrictions be put on travel in the United States by Cuban officials who reside here, and that visits by Cuban officials to our country be further limited.

Finally, all charter air travel from the United States to Cuba will be suspended indefinitely.

These deliberate actions are the right ones at this time. They respond to Havana in a way that serves our goals of accelerating the arrival of democracy in Cuba. But I am not ruling out any further steps in the future, should they be required.

Saturday's attack was an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime -- repressive, violent, scornful of international law. In our time, democracy has swept the globe, from the Philippines exactly 10 years ago, to Central and Eastern Europe, to South Africa, to Haiti, to all but one nation in our hemisphere. I will do everything in my power to see that this historic tide reaches the shores of Cuba.

And let me close by extending on behalf of our family and our country our deepest condolences to those in the families of those who lost their lives.

END

4:03 P.M. EST

ALEJANDRE FAMILY:

Marlene Alejandre
Margarita (Maggy) Alejandre Khuly

COSTA FAMILY:

Mirta Mendez
Richard Mendez

DE LA PEÑA FAMILY:

Miriam de la Peña
Mario de la Peña

MORALES FAMILY:

Nelson Morales

ADDITIONAL NAMES:

Carlos Ruga
Lilly Ruga
Maria Teresa Fernandez
Amalia San Pedro
James Ward

GREENBERG
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
TRAURIG

Transmittal Cover Sheet

TO Suzana Valdes

Company

Fax Number (202) 456-6218

Phone Number

FROM Maggie Khuly

File Number 9.236760

Comments

Date 10/31/96

Time 1:30pm

No. Pages Including this cover sheet 14pgs

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1221 Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131 305-579-0500 Fax 305-579-0717

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
October 31, 1996

DRAFT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONTACT:
Sandy Grossman
(305) 579-0627
Lourdes Brezo Martinez
(305) 579-0776

PRESS CONFERENCE SET

FAMILIES OF PILOTS SHOT DOWN OVER STRAITS

FILE 3 LAWSUITS IN FEDERAL COURT TODAY

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: *JM* DATE: *6/28/98*

2016-0920-F

MIAMI, Florida (October 31st, 1996) – A press conference has been scheduled for 2:30 p.m. today at 1221 Brickell Avenue (in the Conference Room located on the 22nd Floor) to discuss three lawsuits filed this morning in Miami Federal Court by the families of Armando Alejandro, Carlos Costa, and Mario M. de la Peña. The lawsuits arise out of the shooting down of two unarmed, U.S. civilian aircraft on February 24, 1996, while these were flying over international waters and engaged in a humanitarian search and rescue mission for Cuban rafters in the Florida Straits. The families of the downed pilots will issue a statement in person at the press conference. More information is available to the media by contacting Sandy Grossman or Lourdes Brezo Martinez at (305) 579-0627 or (305) 579-0776.

PRESS STATEMENT

On February 24, 1996, our loved ones, Armando Alejandro, Jr., Carlos Costa and Mario de la Peña, were shot down and killed by the Cuban Air Force while on a humanitarian search and rescue mission over the Florida Straits. As verified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in its report of June 1996, our loved ones were flying two small, unarmed civilian aircraft over international waters, when they were killed by missiles fired from Cuban MiGs following orders given by Cuban Air Force officials. The planes carrying Armando, Carlos and Mario were attacked and destroyed while flying over international waters, well outside of the territorial waters of Cuba. Neither the MiGs nor Cuban civilian or military ground control issued any warnings prior to the attacks.

Despite ICAO's findings and the fact that this act of brutality has been universally condemned, most notably by the United Nations Security Council, we feel that those responsible for these killings have yet to face the full consequences of their actions. As a result, we continue to work through legal channels to pursue all means available to us to find justice.

Three separate lawsuits have been filed today, one by the widow of Armando Alejandro, Jr., one by the parents of Carlos Alberto Costa, and one by the parents of Mario Manuel de la Peña, against the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban Air Force. These lawsuits are brought pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, passed by Congress in April of this year, which among other things, granted all U.S. citizens a vehicle for redressing "extra-judicial killing" resulting from state sponsored terrorism. We exercise this right as American citizens in order to seek justice for the brutal killing of our family members and in hopes of deterring similar acts of brutality against other U.S. citizens in the future.

We have lost sons, a husband and father and brothers. The void caused by Armando, Carlos & Mario's deaths is impossible to fill. To us, their families, there is no consolation possible. The emptiness will always remain and our families will forever be incomplete. The pain will be with us all of our lives and we know that nothing will bring Armando, Carlos and Mario back. We owe it to them to do everything in our power to hold those responsible for their deaths fully accountable. Armando, Carlos and Mario set an example for us with their courage, generosity and commitment to the human rights of all, and this is the legacy they leave behind. We believe it is our duty to see this legacy fulfilled. We will never forget them.

THE ALEJANDRE, COSTA AND DE LA PEÑA FAMILIES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MONROE DIVISION

CASE NO. _____

MARLENE ALEJANDRE, individually
and as personal representative
of the Estate of ARMANDO ALEJANDRE,
deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA;
THE CUBAN AIR FORCE,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff MARLENE ALEJANDRE, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, sues THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA and THE CUBAN AIR FORCE and alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff MARLENE ALEJANDRE is a national of the United States, and resides in the City of Miami, Florida.
2. At the time of his death, Plaintiff's spouse, ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, was a national of the United States and resident in Miami.
3. At all times material, Plaintiff MARLENE ALEJANDRE was, is and/or will be the duly appointed Administrator, Executor and/or

Personal Representative of the Estate of ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, deceased.

4. As Administrator, Executor and/or Personal Representative of decedent's estate, Plaintiff brings this action for the decedent's wrongful death in her representative capacity, on behalf of the following potential survivors and/or beneficiaries:

- a. Marlene Alejandre, wife of decedent;
- b. Marlene Victoria Alejandre, daughter of decedent.

5. Defendant THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA ("CUBA") is a foreign state, as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1603, located in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 90 miles south of Key West, Florida.

6. Defendant THE CUBAN AIR FORCE is a military entity which is a political subdivision of the government of CUBA. THE CUBAN AIR FORCE is the division of the Cuban military which conducted the acts of extrajudicial killing described herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1330 and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 in that Plaintiff's claims are brought pursuant to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.

8. CUBA and THE CUBAN AIR FORCE are subject to suit in the courts of the United States under and in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1604 and Section 221(a) of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-132 (to be codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1605(7)).

9. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(f)(1).

CUBA

10. The government of CUBA is a totalitarian dictatorship known for its multiple human rights violations. Fidel Castro, the head of its dictatorship, is directly responsible for the conduct of CUBA in its affairs.

11. CUBA both supports and engages in terrorist activities. These activities, as demonstrated by CUBA's attack on February 24, 1996 against two unarmed civilian aircraft flying over international waters, constitute violations of the law of nations and of at least the following international laws and agreements:

a. The Convention on International Civil Aviation and the 1984 Montreal Protocol to the Convention;

b. The 1973 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civilian Aircraft, article 1;

c. The 1966 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, article 6;

d. The 1969 American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), article 4;

e. The General Assembly Resolutions on Measures to Prevent International Terrorism, G.A. Res. 40/61 (1985) and G.A. Res. 42/159 (1987);

f. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dec. 10,

1948 G.A. Res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc A/810, articles 3 and 5 (1948).

12. In addition to formal treaties and international agreements, the prohibition against extrajudicial killing and similar forms of terrorism, particularly when directed against unarmed civilian aircraft, is a basic *jus cogens* norm of international law.

13. Violation of a *jus cogens* norm subjects the perpetrator to universal jurisdiction.

14. CUBA is currently designated by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism under § 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 U.S.C. App. § 2405(j), and § 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, 22 U.S.C. § 2371. The designation is published at 61 Fed. Reg. 12927 (1996).

15. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1605(7), the sovereign immunity of a foreign state is waived when a U.S. national plaintiff seeks money damages in United States courts for acts of extrajudicial killing for which the foreign state is responsible.

16. In an unprecedented act of cowardice, CUBA engaged in a willful and deliberate act of extrajudicial killing on February 24, 1996 by shooting down two unarmed, civilian aircraft flying over international waters on a humanitarian search and rescue mission.

THE CUBAN AIR FORCE

17. Plaintiff realleges and reasserts paragraphs 1 through 16 as if fully set forth herein.

18. THE CUBAN AIR FORCE actively and knowingly participated in the acts of extrajudicial killing described herein. The jurisdictional and related principles described above apply with equal force to the liability of THE CUBAN AIR FORCE.

FACTS OF THE CASE

19. Plaintiff's decedent was a volunteer aiding a Miami-based humanitarian organization engaged in search and rescue operations in the Straits of Florida.

20. On Saturday, February 24, 1996, decedent departed from Opa Locka Airport in Florida aboard an unarmed civilian aircraft, registration number N5485S. Two other unarmed and defenseless civilian aircraft accompanied this aircraft on a humanitarian mission.

21. The decedent was flying a humanitarian mission, identical to many hundreds flown since 1991, and posed no threat whatsoever to the government of CUBA, THE CUBAN AIR FORCE, or the Cuban people.

22. The civilian aircraft notified air traffic controllers as to their flight plans, which would take them south of the 24th parallel and close to Cuban airspace. International law provides a nation with airspace over the 12-mile territorial sea.

23. The response of Fidel Castro's dictatorship to decedent's lawful flight was to scramble two MiG fighter jets from a Havana airfield.

24. At approximately 3:21 p.m., the pilot of one of the Cuban MiGs received permission and proceeded to shoot down civilian aircraft # N2456S over international waters, outside Cuban airspace.

25. At no time did the pilots of the Cuban MiG fighters nor Havana air traffic controllers make any effort to establish radio communication or contact with civilian aircraft, # N2456S, nor attempt any other internationally accepted means of interception, prior to the grant of hostile authorization and subsequent killing of innocent, unarmed civilians.

26. Approximately six minutes later, the pilot of the Cuban fighter jet received permission and proceeded to shoot down civilian aircraft # N5485S over international waters, outside Cuban airspace.

27. At no time did the pilots of the Cuban MiG fighters nor Havana controllers make any effort to establish radio communication or contact with civilian aircraft, # N5485S, nor attempt any other internationally accepted means of interception, prior to the grant of hostile authorization and subsequent killing of innocent, unarmed civilians.

28. The civilian aircraft shot down by CUBA and THE CUBAN AIR FORCE never entered Cuban airspace on February 24, 1996.

29. There were no survivors of the attack on these aircraft. Plaintiff's decedent perished in the attack.

30. The Cuban dictatorship, if it truly felt threatened by the flight of these unarmed aircraft, could have and should have pursued other peaceful options as required by international law.

31. The response chosen by Fidel Castro, the use of lethal force, was completely inappropriate to the situation presented to the Cuban Government, making such actions a blatant and barbaric violation of international law and tantamount to cold-blooded murder.

32. On or about February 27, 1996, the United Nations Security Council issued a statement strongly deploring "the shooting down by the Cuban Air Force of the two civilian airplanes on 24 February, 1996." United Nations Security Council: Statement on the Shooting Down by the Cuban Air Force of the Two Civilian Aircraft, 35 I.C.M. 493 (1996).

33. On March 1, 1996, President Clinton issued Proclamation 6867, which states that "Cuban military aircraft intercepted and destroyed two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba." Proclamation 6867 also indicates that "the Government of Cuba has demonstrated a ready and reckless willingness to use excessive force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty."

34. On March 6, 1996, the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization ("ICAO") adopted a Resolution directing the Secretary General to initiate an investigation of the incident in its entirety to determine all relevant facts and technical aspects.

The Council further directed that these findings were to be reported to the ICAO Council.

35. On June 27, 1996, the Council of the ICAO adopted a Resolution reaffirming its condemnation of the use of lethal force against civil aircraft in flight and declaring such practices incompatible with the rules of customary international law.

36. The Report of the ICAO Fact-Finding Investigation, issued in June 1996 ("ICAO Report"), concluded that civilian aircraft N2456S and N5485S were both shot down in international waters outside of Cuban territorial airspace.

37. The ICAO Report concluded that means other than interception were available to Cuba, such as radio communication, but had not been utilized. The Report further concluded that this conflicted with the ICAO principle that interception of civil aircraft should be undertaken only as a last resort.

38. The ICAO Report concluded that in executing these attacks, the Cuban military pilots did not follow universally accepted international aviation procedures, in accordance with ICAO provisions and as published in Cuba, for maneuvering and signaling by military interceptor aircraft.

39. The government of CUBA and THE CUBAN AIR FORCE have acknowledged their direct participation in and responsibility for the deliberate destruction of the civilian aircraft on February 24, 1996, and therefore, for the death of ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, on whose behalf Plaintiff brings this action.

40. The government of the United States has concluded and affirmed that CUBA bears full responsibility, through its own acts and those of its political subdivision, THE CUBAN AIR FORCE, for the deliberate destruction of the civilian aircraft.

COUNT I

Wrongful Death

(Against THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA and
THE CUBAN AIR FORCE)

41. Plaintiff realleges and reasserts paragraphs 1 through 40 as if fully set forth herein.

42. Defendants' actions, for which they are jointly and severally liable, caused the deliberate and wrongful death of Plaintiff's spouse by causing the willful and premeditated destruction of the civilian airplane in which he was flying on February 24, 1996.

43. Such acts were in violation of the law of nations and numerous international agreements and treaties, including, but not limited to, the agreements listed in paragraph 11. These egregious acts also constituted violations of *jus cogens* norms of international law, and applicable common law.

44. As a direct and proximate result of the shootdown, Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff for all damages to which the estate, or the survivors and/or beneficiaries are entitled, including, as applicable law may provide, but not limited to:

a. pain and suffering of the decedent prior to death;

b. pain and suffering of the survivors, beneficiaries and heirs of decedent;

c. lost society, companionship, guidance, and services of the decedent to the survivors, beneficiaries and heirs;

d. loss of support in money or in kind;

e. lost net accumulations;

f. lost value of life;

g. funeral expenses;

h. any and all other damages to which Plaintiff, the survivors and/or beneficiaries may be entitled.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA and THE CUBAN AIR FORCE for compensatory damages, plus interest and costs.

COUNT II

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

(Against THE CUBAN AIR FORCE)

45. Plaintiff realleges and reasserts paragraphs 1 through 40 as if fully set forth herein.

46. The extreme and outrageous acts of the defendant, THE CUBAN AIR FORCE, in shooting down the unarmed civilian aircraft and killing their occupants were intentional, willful and/or wantonly reckless acts.

47. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1606, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendant, THE CUBAN AIR FORCE, for this extreme and egregious conduct.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, MARLENE ALEJANDRE, demands judgment against THE CUBAN AIR FORCE for punitive damages pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1606.

Respectfully Submitted,

FRANK ANGONES, ESQ.
ANGONES, HUNTER, MCCLURE,
LYNCH & WILLIAMS, P.A.
9TH FLOOR, CONCORD BUILDING
66 WEST FLAGLER STREET
MIAMI FL 33130
(305/371-5000)

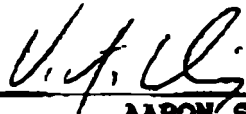
-and-

ROBERTO MARTINEZ, ESQ.
JUAN CARLOS CAMPOS, ESQ.
GREENBERG, TRAUERIG, HOFFMAN,
LIPOFF, ROSEN & QUENTEL, P.A.
1221 BRICKELL AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33131
(305/579-0050)

-and-

PODHURST, ORSECK, JOSEFSBERG,
EATON, MEADOW, OLIN & PERWIN, P.A.
25 West Flagler Street, Suite 800
Miami, Florida 33130
(305) 358-2800 / Fax (305) 358-2382

By: _____


AARON S. PODHURST
VICTOR M. DIAZ, JR.
XAVIER MARTINEZ
Fla. Bar Nos. 063606,
503800 and 0059498

2:\LIBRARY\IN\NEWS72\00843.COM

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Shoot Down

Divider Title: _____

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Memos

Divider Title: _____

Suzanna

July 19, 1996

Don Hinton
Steve Soler

JUL 20 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM SUZANNA VALDEZ

RE Cuba Envoy

Attached, please find a proposal from Cuban American appointees and the Core group. You should review and comment to Sandy.

Thanks.

Suzanna
I am following
up on / Sandy -
where are we
on more of
Patrick's mail

The President's Special Envoy for Cuba

Proposal:

Ambassador Madeleine Albright, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, would be appointed the titular "Special Envoy," as outlined by the President on July 16th.

- Amb. Albright will lend obvious prestige and gravity to the President's stated intentions.
- Amb. Albright's role may be limited largely to international-national public affairs/press-related activities due to her busy schedule at the UN.
- Amb. Albright, with her statements during the shootdown of the US civilian planes in February, already has demonstrated her effectiveness in tackling this nettlesome issue.

Stuart Eizenstadt, the Undersecretary of Commerce for International Affairs and the immediate former US Ambassador to the European Union, would be designated something akin to the "Special Representative of the President" -- in effect a deputy to the Special Envoy or for the six-month period of the suspension, or shorter as desirable.

- Amb. Eizenstadt enjoys very high credibility in European capitals; his designation, like Albright's, would lend prestige and gravity to the President's message and designation of a special envoy.
- Amb. Eizenstadt already is experienced in presenting US views to EU nations, presumably including our overall views on Cuba and during the planes' shootdown.
- Amb. Eizenstadt is known and trusted in both Democratic and bipartisan circles.

Political issues. According to White House political analysts:

- The President, only a month after his signing of Helms-Burton and Amb. Albright's highly effective public pronouncements on the shootdown, was polling an unprecedented 45 percent in the South Florida Cuban-American community -- unheard for a Democratic President among this major statewide "swing" vote. (March 1996)
- Rep. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) a key ally of the Administration who is now alienated, cannot but support this move -- perhaps strongly, as it would enable him to save face.
- Cuban-American Democratic supporters ensure us that this will generate strong support in the community at a critical time both in Florida and in New Jersey.

Assumptions:

The Administration desires an envoy whose stature will convince the Europeans and Latins that the Administration means business.

The envoy will work to seek the specific outcomes outlined by the President in his July 16th statement.

CARLOS ALBERTO COSTA

Born June 23, 1966

Murdered on

February 24, 1996

NEXT OF KIN

Father : Osvaldo Costa

Mother : Mirta Costa

Address : 17822 NW 81 Ct
Hialeah, Fl 33015

Phone : 821-3031

Sister : Mirta Mendez
9234 SW 9 Terr
Miami, Fl 33174

Phone : 552-7629

RELATIVES OF ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, Jr.

1. Marlene Alejandre (wife) 7500 SW 61 street, Miami, FL 33143
2. Marlene Victoria Alejandre (daughter) 7500 SW 61 street, Miami, FL 33143
3. A. Armando Alejandre (father) 7525 SW 62 street, Miami, FL 33143
4. Margarita Alejandre (mother) 7525 SW 62 street, Miami, FL 33143
5. Margarita Alejandre Khuly (sister) 7501 SW 62 street, Miami, FL 33143
6. Cristina Alejandre (sister) 7520 SW 61 street, Miami, FL 33143
7. Ana Alejandre Ciereszko (sister) 7550 SW 61 street, Miami, FL 33143

① Mothers/Daughter

② 300,000 dep. distribution

③ Estate

MEMORANDUM TO: **ROB MALLEY**

FROM: **SUZANNA VALDEZ**
 LULA RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: **FAMILY COMPENSATION**

DATE: **JUNE 4, 1996**

In response to our earlier conversation, regarding compensation to the families of the February 24 shutdown victims, we recommend that each family receive equal amounts in compensation. Based on conversations with the family members, we recommend that the disbursement of compensation go to the following members:

Armando Alejandro: Survived by his wife, daughter, parents and three sisters. His wife and daughter should be equal recipients of the compensation.

Carlos Costa: Survived by his parents and sister. His parents should be the recipients.

Mario de la Pena: Survived by his parents and a brother. His parents should be the recipients.

Pablo Morales: The only non-citizen of the group. His mother should be the sole recipient. She was recently paroled into the U.S. from Cuba. Mrs. Morales has received extensive media coverage since arriving to South Florida and has maintained a high profile in the Cuban American community.

We would also recommend that the Director of the Cuba Desk at the State Department travel to South Florida to inform them of the process and deliver to them the compensation.

cc: Alexis Herman

Mario M. de la Peña

American Pilot
Shot Down by Cuban Migs
Over International Waters
February 24, 1996

Next of Kin

Father: Mario T. de la Peña
Mother: Miriam de la Peña
Brother: Michael T. de la Peña

10016 SW 25 Street
Miami, FL 33165

(305) 220-2483

~~7028~~ (305)
552-7629

(305)
632-3151

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE

6/9/96

TO

Suzanna A. Valdez

COMPANY

FAX NO.

FROM

M. Mendez

OF

OCEAN BANK - BIRD ROAD BRANCH

FAX NO. (305) 261-7351

PHONE NO. (305) 266-9500

MESSAGE

This is the Morales information
you had requested. Please remember
we all need to be briefed on this
issue.

Thanks

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT INCLUDING COVER SHEET

PABLO MORALES
Born May 16, 1966
Murdered on
February 24, 1996

NEXT OF KIN

Mother: Eva Barbas
Brother: Nelson Morales
Sister: Nancy Morales
Address: 6480 West 24th Ave #216
Hialeah, Fl
Phone: 819-2608

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE

6/3/96

TO

Suzanna Valdez

COMPANY

FAX NO.

FROM

Marta Mendez

OF

OCEAN BANK - BIRD ROAD BRANCH

FAX NO. (305) 261-7351

PHONE NO. (305) 266-9500

MESSAGE

Suzanna, Here is the list you asked for except for the Morales, I haven't been able to reach them I will try again today. We would also like to be updated regarding this matter till this day we have no information. I received the pictures on Sat. I will give out. Please could you check on the pictures of March 12, 96 we have not received them. Thanks for your help.

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT INCLUDING COVER SHEET

KHULY ARCHITECTS
associates, inc.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: SUSANA VALDEZ/ATTN: MARIA GARZA

FROM: MAGGIE KHULY

DATE: 5/31/96

FAX NO.: (202) 456-6218

JOB: MAY 26/96 LETTER TO PRES. CLINTON

NO. OF COPIES: 3
(INCLUDING COVER LETTER)

REMARKS:

* Friday / Monday

8/17/93
Shaped
by Judy Det

NON-PAPER ON EX GRATIA COMPENSATION OFFER

- o The United States announced its ex gratia compensation offer in July 1989.
- o Under this offer, each family of a full-time wage earner would receive \$250,000 and each family of a non-wage earner would receive \$100,000.
- o These ex gratia payments would be distributed to the victim's family according to the following formula:

- where the victim is survived by a spouse, children and parents, 40% to the spouse, 40% to the children, and 20% to the parents;
- where the victim is survived by a spouse and children, 50% to the spouse and 50% to the children;
- where the victim is survived by a spouse and parents, 80% to the spouse and 20% to the parents;
- where the victim is survived by children and parents, 80% to the children and 20% to the parents;
- where the victim is survived by only a spouse, 100% to the spouse;
- where the victim is survived by only children, 100% to the children;
- **where the victim is survived by only parents, each parent's payment is capped at \$80,000;**]*
- **where the victim is not survived by a spouse, children or parents, payment is made to the surviving siblings, each of whose payments is capped at \$80,000;**]*
- where the victim is not survived by a spouse, children, parents, or siblings, no payment is made.

- o Within each class of individuals (i.e., children, parents, siblings), where there is more than one individual, the individuals divide the payment equally.

*The cap is no longer being applied, in light of the settlement...

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. cable	re: Victims of Iran air flight 655 (Personal) (3 pages)	06/07/1989	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Cuba File 1996 [binder] [1]

2016-0920-F
jm1916

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]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- 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]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

United States Department of State
Fact Sheet
February 22, 1996

Settlement of Iran Air ICJ Case and Iran Tribunal Bank Claims

Iran and the United States have settled Iran's claims against the United States filed before the International Court of Justice concerning the July 3, 1988, shootdown of Iran Air 655 and Iran's claims against the United States filed before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal concerning certain banking matters. On February 22, 1996, the cases in question were dismissed from the Court and the Tribunal. No money will be paid to the Government of Iran under the settlement.

The survivors of each victim of the Iran Air shootdown will be paid \$300,000 (for wage-earning victims) or \$150,000 (for non-wage-earning victims). For this purpose, \$61.8 million will be deposited with the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich in an account jointly held by the New York Federal Reserve Bank, acting as fiscal agent of the United States, and Bank Markazi, the central bank of Iran. Payments will be made out of this account upon joint payment instruction by the Swiss Embassy in Tehran (acting on our behalf, after consulting with the Department of State with respect to each payment) and the Iranian Bureau of International Legal Services. If additional funds are required, we agree to replenish the account. If there are excess funds or eight years elapse from the date the account is opened, any funds left in the account, including interest earned on the funds, will be returned to the United States.

There is an additional \$70 million in the settlement package. Of this, \$15 million is to be deposited in the Security Account established as a part of the 1981 Algiers Accords. This Security Account is held at the Dutch Central Bank to pay American claimants who receive Tribunal awards. The remaining \$55 million will be deposited in an account at the New York Federal Reserve Bank. Funds can be drawn from this account only (1) for deposits into the Security Account used to pay Tribunal awards to American claimants or for payment of Iran's share of the operating expenses of the Tribunal or (2) to pay debts incurred before the date of the settlement and owed by Iranian banks to U.S. nationals. A debt must have been held by a U.S. national at the time it was incurred and at the time it is presented for payment, and any assignment of the debt must have been before the date of the settlement.

The United States and Iran have reached settlements of legal proceedings in The Hague several times since the Tribunal was established in 1981. These settlements are entered into when the United States believes they are justified on a legal and technical basis, and have no political significance. The bank claims at issue involve Iranian charges that the United States Government did not return appropriate funds from certain bank accounts after the hostage crisis and that the United States took actions that prevented payment of certain letters of credit. In one of the matters covered by the settlement, the Tribunal had found certain U.S. regulations concerning standby letters of credit were not permitted under the Algiers Accords.

With respect to the Iran Air shootdown, immediately after the incident President Reagan offered compensation, on an ex gratia (voluntary) basis, to the families of the victims who died. When Iran brought its case in the ICJ, such payments to Iranian survivors became impossible, but we proceeded to make payments to non-Iranian survivors. With the dismissal of the ICJ case, the United States is finally in a position to carry out its long-standing offer to provide ex gratia compensation.

AMERICANS MURDERED OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS

THE FACTS



On February 24, 1996, at 3:30 pm., two Cuban MiG fighters, under orders from their Commander in Chief, Fidel Castro, shot down two U.S. unarmed civilian Cessna 337 aircraft. Four young men were killed. Three were Americans. They were flying a humanitarian mission to help rescue rafters fleeing Cuba.

The aircraft were over international waters, a fact verified by a cruise ship and fishing boat at the scene, by U.S. intelligence and the United Nations. They never received any warning. Even if they had been flying over Cuban waters, there could be no justification for blasting the U.S. aircraft out of the sky.

The MiG pilots bragged over the radio about having killed the crew members.

Immediately afterwards, the Castro regime launched a propaganda campaign to justify the crime.

THE CRIMINALS

Fidel Castro and his 37-year-old regime

According to U.S. Public Law 104-114 of March 12, 1996, Sec. 2:

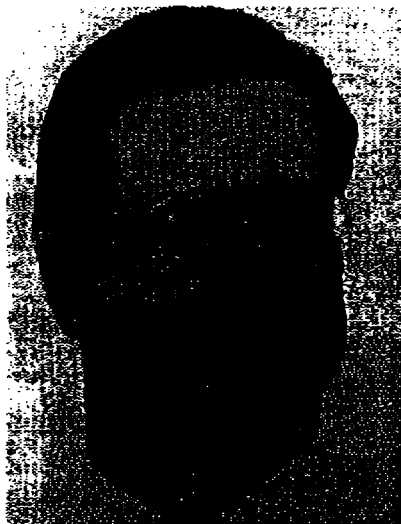
- The Cuban Government engages in the illegal international narcotics trade and harbors fugitives from justice in the United States.
- The Castro government threatens international peace and security by engaging in acts of armed subversion and terrorism such as the training and supplying of groups dedicated to international violence.
- The Castro government manipulates the desire to escape that results in mass migration to the United States.
- The Castro government continues to utilize blackmail, such as the immigration crisis with which it threatened the United States in the Summer of 1994.
- For the past 36 years, the Cuban Government has posed and continues to pose a national security threat to the United States.

Also, the Castro regime:

- Is building a Chernobyl-type nuclear plant, posing a threat to the U.S. mainland and the Caribbean.
- Denies its 11 million citizens the most basic necessities due to the absolute control of the economy under a totalitarian system.
- Has executed thousands and incarcerated hundreds of thousands with sentences of up to 30 years for political reasons.
- Has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations Human Rights Commission.
- Has recently increased political repression, incarcerating hundreds of dissidents and sternly threatening the intellectuals.

THE VICTIMS

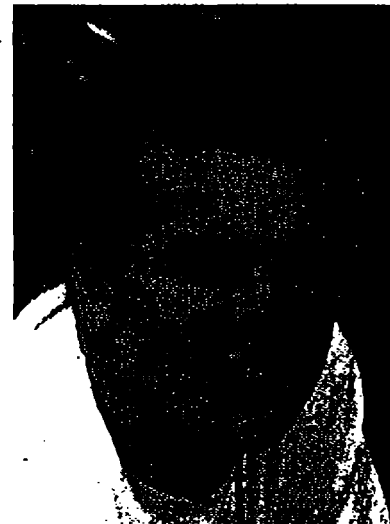
They were four young idealistic members of Brothers to the Rescue, a volunteer organization made up of pilots who patrol the Florida Straits to rescue Cubans trying to escape in makeshift rafts. Since they began operation in 1991, the Brothers have carried out 1,800 missions and saved thousands from death. But four will never fly again:



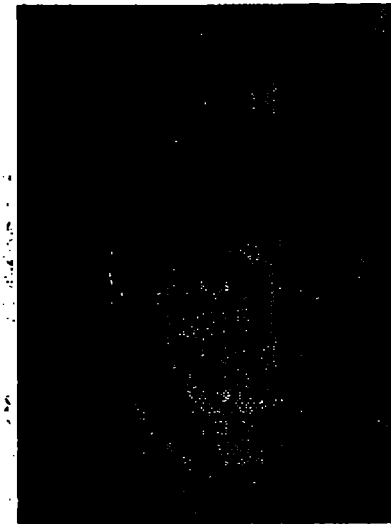
Armando Alejandro Jr., 45
Vietnam veteran, married and the father of a teenage girl. He was a volunteer helping the Cuban rafters stranded in the Bahamas. His first and final flight as a spotter for Brothers to the Rescue was on February 24, 1996.



Carlos Costa, 29
Single, born and raised in Miami. Flew 142 rescue missions, saving more than 500 lives. He was the flight coordinator for the group and was pursuing a career in aviation administration.



Mario de la Peña, 24
Born in New Jersey, he grew up in Miami. He took the plight of the rafters as a personal cause. Very active in his church youth group, he could not hate anybody. "The enemy is injustice," he used to say.



Pablo Morales, 29
Single. Studied geology and cartography in Cuba, became disenchanted with the Revolution. "It was all a farce," he once said. Fleeing Cuba on a tiny boat, he was spotted by Brothers to the Rescue. Later he joined the group.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you support the following measures, please clip this coupon, sign it and send it to President Clinton at The White House.

Mr. President:

I am concerned about the plight of the Cuban people. It must be brought to an end. I encourage you to:

- Support measures that would put real international pressure on Castro's regime. Human rights must take precedence over business. This principle worked in South Africa and Haiti... Why not in Cuba?
- Call for the indictment in an American court of law of those responsible for this murder: Castro and the MiG pilots.
- Give Radio and T.V. Marti the means to effectively reach the Cuban people.
- Make public the U.S. findings on Castro's involvement in the drug traffic to this country and indict those responsible.
- Investigate and publish the findings on the nuclear plant being built in Cuba.
- Support the dissident movement within Cuba as it was done before in Poland and demand the freedom of all political prisoners.

In summary, I agree with the above-mentioned law, Sec.2.(27): *The Cuban people deserve to be assisted in a decisive manner to end the tyranny that has oppressed them for 36 years, and the continued failure to do so constitutes ethically improper conduct by the international community.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

If you wish to receive more information on Cuba and/or support this information effort, please write or send your donation to:

CUBAN INFORMATION COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 9615 Miami, FL 33109

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 20, 1996

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PETER TARNOFF,
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The Briefing Room

3:03 P.M. EDT

MR. JOHNSON: Our second briefer for today is the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Peter Tarnoff, who is going to speaking to you on the forthcoming ICAO report on Cuba's shootdown of the two U.S. civilian aircraft.

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Good afternoon. The International Civilian Aviation Organization, ICAO, has informed us that it has concluded its investigation of the shootdown of the two unarmed U.S. civilian aircraft on February 24.

The draft report has been shared with the United States, as well as with Cuba. And the ICAO investigative team is briefing U.S. and Cuban representatives today in Montreal on the report. And we expect that the report itself will be issued very soon.

The United States went to extraordinary lengths to cooperate with the ICAO investigation. We provided all information and facilitated all contacts requested by the ICAO investigative team. And representatives from all relevant U.S. government agencies met with ICAO investigators. Extensive documents were provided to the ICAO authorities.

We are, therefore, confident that the report will demonstrate that the unarmed civilian aircraft were shot down by the Cuban military in international airspace, that there was no justification for that outrageous action, and that the Cubans did not attempt to follow standard international norms in warning the aircraft.

We understand that the report provides as well a factual statement of the events leading up to the shootdown and the shootdowns itself, and provides an analysis of those developments that we expect the report -- and we expect the report to reach two key conclusions.

Q But wait a minute, are you giving us the results of the reports or what you expect? And is this the report --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I'm saying, if I may conclude, and I'd be glad to answer your question. What I'm doing is saying that we were briefed on the report. We have not seen the full version. And this is our impression of what will be in the report as soon as it's released.

Q Well, that would help to --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: The two conclusions that we expect to be in the report are first that the shootdowns of the U.S. civilian aircraft took place in international airspace, and that the Cuban authorities and the MIG pilots did not comply with ICAO procedures to provide warnings to the aircraft. We emphasize that the shootdown of these civilian aircraft would have been unjustified and illegal under international law in any event.

MORE

The Cuban government has claimed that it used deadly force due to the threat posed by the Brothers to the Rescue flights. That claim is bogus. While aircraft piloted by Brothers to the Rescue had allegedly overflown Cuban territory on several previous occasions and had allegedly dropped leaflets on one or more occasions, they never posed any danger to Cuba. They have repeatedly declared their peaceful protest intentions.

The Cuban government knew that the United States had taken appropriate steps to discourage unauthorized flights into their territorial airspace and to take enforcement actions against any U.S. registered pilots who did so. The record indicates that on a number of occasions prior to the shootdown, we had informed the Cuban government that the Brothers to the Rescue had declared their peaceful intentions and that we were prepared to take appropriate enforcement action if the Brothers to the Rescue made unauthorized entry into Cuban airspace.

The Cuban government knew that an investigation was underway regarding allegations that Brothers to the Rescue pilots had made an unauthorized entry into Cuban territorial airspace. And we had urged the Cuban authorities to adhere strictly to international norms and procedures in responding to any unauthorized entry into Cuban airspace.

The President on February 26 announced a package of measures to respond to the shootdown of the aircraft. At that time he stated that the shooting down of the aircraft was a flagrant violation of international law which required a strong U.S. and international response. Those measures remain in force and include, one, seeking action by a ICAO and eventually the United Nations Security Council; two, providing compensation to the families of the victims using blocked Cuban assets in the United States; three, expanding broadcasts of Radio MARTI to Cuba; four, imposing additional restrictions on the movement in the U.S. of Cuban officials and visits by Cuban officials to the U.S.; five, suspending indefinitely all charter airflights from the U.S. to Cuba; and, finally, reaching agreement with the Congress to make the Helms-Burton legislation law.

Our focus today is on the shootdown, but we must not lose sight of the tragic events still unfolding on that island. The President emphasized that the shootdown occurred in the context of desperate ongoing efforts to deny freedom to the people of Cuba. The atmosphere of repression and ideological retrenchment is the most severe seen in decades in Cuba. Activists continue to be harassed and detained and forced into exile. The Cuban regime continues efforts to destroy the Concilio Cubano -- the broad coalition of independent pro-democracy groups formed last fall.

The ICAO investigation will delineate the facts and provide an objective, nonpolitical report of the events of February 24. And we will let the factual report speak for itself. It will be an important step in the international response.

Now, the United States will seek strong and clear action at the ICAO council meeting on June 26th, which will consider the report. Secretary Pena will lead the U.S. delegation to underscore the importance that we attach to the report and appropriate ICAO action. Once the report is forwarded by the ICAO to the United Nations Security Council -- following that meeting -- we will seek action by the United Nation's Security Council based on the findings of the report.

Cuba must understand that any repetition of such reprehensible conduct will have grave repercussions.

Q What kind of action will you be taking at the U.N.?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Well as I indicated, our first job will be to make sure that U.N. Security Council reviews the report, and our efforts will be to have a resolution or a President's statement in New York so that the conclusions of the report will be endorsed. We -- now that the report has come out, which was a very important part of our strategy of disclosure and having an international organization reach its own conclusions, we can be considering additional action. But the first priority is to make sure that the U.N. Security Council acts.

Q -- just acts on a resolution endorsing this report?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Endorsing the report. And we will have some -- now that we have just seen the report, I don't want to anticipate exactly what that resolution will be. But we will have some clear ideas about what actions the U.N. Security Council should take.

Q When will the actual report be made public?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: It should be made public either tomorrow or Monday, and the full council of ICAO, which Secretary Pena will attend for the United States, is going to be on the 26th, too. We have every reason to expect to adopt the report.

Q Where are they going to meet?

Q Where?

Q Where are they going to meet?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: In Montreal, which is the headquarters of ICAO.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, as a result, in the aftermath of the shoot down, the founder of Brothers to the Rescue, Jose Basudo, had his license revoked by the FAA. Do you expect to take any action to try to reinstate that license at this time?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: That is a procedure that is being conducted by another department of the government. That inquiry is ongoing, and I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment on that ongoing inquiry.

Q But it is under consideration?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: It's not -- I'm not saying what's under consideration or not. But it has been announced, of course, that a proceeding has been initiated with regard to that, and I think we have to let it run its course without commentary.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, you mentioned Helms-Burton as being one of the outcomes of the shutdown. Can you shed any light on the President's thinking or the administration's thinking as to how the waiver provision of Helms-Burton is going to be used?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Actually, I like Mr. Tarullo's answer to that question. But if I could --

Q I thought you might have a better --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: No, because the President has until the first of August, as you know, to make a decision with respect to the waiver. The legislation is very clear with regard to the kinds of things that he will have to determine about international behavior towards Cuba. In light of that, we have been in touch with many governments not only about Helms-Burton, but also

about policy towards Cuba. And it's just premature to even speculate on what the President's recommendation will be.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, most of the countries you have been in contact with are still opposed to the extraterritoriality of the Helms-Burton. Have you changed any minds?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I think that we have got them to understand that -- as part of our discussions with them -- it's in their interest not only to understand our law and make an attempt to conform to it, but to work increasingly with the United States on the problem of Cuba. We have no reason to be defensive about Helms-Burton and its intention. I think that the behavior of this government over almost 40 years has been unalterable. And the shutdown is only the last example of Cuban behavior.

And I find that in the discussions that I have with foreign government representatives, although many of them do express concerns about Helms-Burton, they are also increasingly mindful of the fact that events in Cuba are preoccupying and not likely to change unless there is greater international pressure.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, can you give us an example of what you've just said -- one other foreign government, other than Israel or Uzbekistan that supported a resolution before the U.N. that in any way supports your efforts on Helms-Burton? Can you give us some example of cooperation from some other foreign government?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I think what we're seeing, and much of this is done discreetly and much of it is done in communications between these governments and Cuba, that many governments in the hemisphere and several in Europe have undertaken to point out to the Cubans, even before the shutdown, but especially afterwards, and also after the suppression of the Concilio Cubano, which took place, as you know, on the day of the shutdown, that they are at the end of their patience with the Cuban government in many respects, and the --

Q But I don't -- (inaudible) -- the question, sir. That's always been the case on the part of most of the governments in this particular hemisphere, but I'm taking you back to your point about since you've implemented the Helms-Burton bill, where have you seen some understanding on the part of any government in the hemisphere?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: What we're looking for in the passage of the Helms-Burton Act, and the President made very clear when he signed it, is greater cooperation, greater consensus, greater pressure on Cuba for its behavior over a whole range of issues. And we have seen that. We've seen that in recent months as governments, including, to use one example, the European Union, which had started a dialogue with Cuba looking to some form of constructive engagement, but which has pulled back -- pulled back not only because of the shutdown, although it was a factor, or the suppression of Concilio Cubano, but simply because during the course of their very high level dialogue with the Cuban officials, they came away absolutely frustrated and believing that there was they came away absolutely frustrated and believing that there was no prospect of change and, therefore, more receptive to cooperate with us on a whole series of measures.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, why don't you think that if the United States opens everything to Cuba at once -- investment, let massive investment flow into Cuba, trade, air exchange, information, telephone calls, tourism, wouldn't that provide such a massive shock to the -- (inaudible) -- Cuban system that the current regime wouldn't be able to survive very long?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: No, I don't believe that at all.

Q Why not?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Because I think that over the past 36 years Fidel Castro has demonstrated two or three things. First of all, because of the way he is able to exercise control through his security apparatus and other ways, he has very firm control of that society. He, as I indicated before, will not be tempted to engage with the West or the democratic countries around the world in meaningful reform. I think that's a hopeless, hopeless prospect. And, therefore, if money and goods and legitimacy, recognition were afforded to him, I'm absolutely convinced that he would use it for his own purposes. He would declare victory and not change one iota of his own system.

Q With that being the case, if positive benefit flowing to him won't change his actions, there's certainly been no indication that negative benefit flowing to him will change his actions. So, what do you do, simply wait until Castro is dead and simply isolate the island until we have word that Castro has passed away?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Well, as you know, the United States, since the passage of the Cuban Democracy Act four years ago, has had in addition to our policy of containment and isolation of the government, a very active program of reaching out to Cuban individuals and organizations. It's been modeled after much of the activities that took place in the late '70s and '80s in Eastern Europe. And tens of millions of dollars, principally from private to nongovernmental sources, in the United States have gone to Cuba to support the activity of civic organizations, religious groups, the very few human rights organizations which were beginning to develop some following and some autonomy in recent years.

So, we're not indifferent to what's happening in Cuba, and we think that it's possible to have at least some effect on Cuban society but none whatsoever on the Cuban government.

Q I'm just trying to understand what U.S. policy is then. If you're saying that the carrot won't work and the stick hasn't worked, what do you figure will? Or do you simply assume that nothing will work?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: What the United States is trying to do in Cuba is to lead by example in two respects. One, to authorize substantial initiatives of support to the nongovernmental sector along the lines that I've been talking about. And I think this has had some effect. It's obviously inappropriate for us to identify it too clearly given the nature of Cuban society, but it has had an effect.

Secondly, through the kinds of political actions and legislation we have taken, to demonstrate to the rest of the world that the United States is absolutely convinced that isolation, pressure on the Castro government is indispensable. We are not responsible for the actions of other governments which fail to subscribe to identical measures, but we have seen in Cuba and in other parts of the world that sometimes the United States must stand alone to express its views and follow its own policies.

Q Can I bring us back to the plane issue for one moment? You've repeatedly referred to the Brothers to the Rescue flights over Cuba as alleged. Are you now saying that those flights did not occur?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: No, I'm not saying they did not occur but because the fact and the circumstances of those flights

are part of the ongoing inquiry that is being conducted, I didn't want to be any more precise than I was in my statement.

Q -- Mr. Basudo, the Director of Brothers to the Rescue has said repeatedly to the Miami press that the United States has not turned in all the tapes that you were able to tape while the whole incident was occurring. Is it true that the United States did not turn in all the tapes to this commission --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I'm not aware of any materials that we have, for one reason or another, not made available.

Q -- other investigations -- what other investigations now undergoing?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Well, this is the inquiry that's being conducted with respect to the alleged violation of Cuban airspace by the Brothers to the Rescue earlier, before the shutdown.

Q Sir, relating to February 24th, does the report mention -- third plane, the plane that was spotted by the survivor, did actually enter the space, Cuban space or not? Are you aware if they touched on that? And what was the result?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I don't have that level of detail, but my impression is the report is absolutely categorical with regard to the fact that all three planes were in international airspace.

Q Were you the one who was briefed for the United States? Did you represent the -- with the organization? I mean, you're preempting the report, and you want us to know what's in it basically. Were you the one --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: No, I was not briefed, but our officials were briefed by ICAO as, as I mentioned in my statement, the Cuban officials were also briefed on the report.

Q Could you repeat once again what's going to happen now? The United States is going to take this report to the United Nations and they're going to review it, and then after that what --

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: To the Security Council, and we will have ideas at that time with regard to the resolution that we think it would important for the Security Council to pass in some form.

Q Is there any evidence that Cuba was less than forthcoming in providing information to the ICAO?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: My impression is that they were much less than forthcoming. But I'll let the report speak for itself.

Q Mr. Tarnoff, a question on another country. How close is the State Department to signing off on the sale of F-16s to Indonesia? And why is it doing it considering the -- (inaudible) -- illegal occupation of East Timor?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I'd rather not comment on issues other than the one that I'm addressing here today.

Thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

3:22 P.M. EDT

**AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
MEMORIAL SERVICE -- BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
MARCH 2, 1996**

On behalf of President Clinton, the First Lady and my own family, I offer my condolences, my prayers and my support to the martyrs of February 24, to their families and to their many, many friends.

Archbishop Favarola and Bishop Roman and the other clergy here have offered comfort to the spirit and soul to which I cannot add, though as a mother and grandmother, I wish had words that would comfort further still.

Last Saturday, Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena, and Armando Alejandro -- became part of the hallowed list of Americans killed because they loved freedom and because they cared for their fellow human beings.

We who are gathered here, and in living rooms and kitchens throughout this city, throughout this country, share this desire: to bring those four men back, to see their fragile aircraft circling this stadium, to watch as they are reunited with their families.

That is our desire, but is beyond our power to transform that dream into flesh and blood.

It is within our power to be sure that the world does not misunderstand what happened off the coast of Florida -- in international airspace -- seven days ago.

So, of this you may be sure:

When the Government of Fidel Castro tries -- as it has -- to deny that it was murder, America will tell the truth.

When the Government of Fidel Castro tries -- as it has -- to twist and distort the rules by which all civilized people must live -- America will tell the truth.

And it is because we have told the truth that Castro has been tried and convicted in the court of world opinion for his outrageous and brutal crime.

There is anguish in our hearts this afternoon. But let us not allow that anguish to harden our hearts.

America will protect its citizens in international waters and international skies.

We will tighten sanctions against the Government of Cuba, but without harming the people we want to help.

We will employ every diplomatic strategy we can devise to encourage a transition to democracy in Cuba.

But we will deny to Castro the satisfaction of driving us to lawlessness or violence.

When I was a little Czechoslovak girl, I watched in fear as Communists loyal to Joseph Stalin seized control of Czechoslovakia and drove my family from its home.

When I was a young woman, I watched in horror as Soviet tanks crushed the democratic uprising known as "Prague Spring."

When I was an older woman, I watched in pride as a former political prisoner and dissident, Vaclav Havel, was sworn in as President.

It was his view, in his words, that:

"Communism is not defeated by military force, but by life, by the human spirit, by conscience (and) by the resistance of ... human individuality (to) imprisonment within a uniform ideology."

The mistake that tyrants make is to confuse the power to control armies with the power to sway the human soul.

Castro could not sway the souls of the four brave men we honor today.

He cannot still the trend towards democracy that is building across the globe.

He cannot stand against the power of love and the love of freedom that exists in this stadium right now.

Gathered here are mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, citizens and students, men of the cloth -- and memories.

Let us, on this day of dedication, resolve to live our lives in the spirit of those whose deaths brought us here.

May their example give new life to the ideals we cherish.

May their courage give us courage.

May they rest in peace.

And may they never be forgotten. Thank you and God Bless You. And God Bless the United States of America.

July 1, 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Osvaldo Costa
17822 Northwest 81st Court
Miami, Florida 33015

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Costa:

Thank you for your letter and for sending the material about your son. I was deeply moved by the pictures of Carlos, and I want to share again my heartfelt condolences for those lost in the tragic shootdown by the Cuban government.

Throughout my Administration, the United States has sought a peaceful transition to freedom and democracy in Cuba. To accomplish this, we have strictly enforced a comprehensive economic embargo that presses the Cuban regime to end human rights abuses and adopt democratic reforms. Unfortunately, those who would seek to hinder this process resorted to violence.

In response to Cuba's egregious violation of international law and to ensure that Cuba will abide by its obligation to respect civilian aircraft, I have, as you know, taken the following steps:

- o Signed into law the Helms-Burton Cuba legislation, which will enhance the effectiveness of the present embargo in a way that advances the cause of democracy in that country;
- o Restricted the movement of Cuban diplomats in the United States and tightened the criteria for issuing visas to employees of the Cuban government;
- o Pledged increased support for Radio Marti in order to overcome radiowave jamming by Cuba; and
- o Indefinitely suspended all commercial charter flights to Cuba.

It is my hope that these steps will serve our goal of accelerating the arrival of democracy in Cuba. I have not ruled out further steps, should they be required.

Again, Hillary and I send our deepest sympathies on your loss.

Sincerely,

BC/KMB/JFB/JRS/jfc-ckb-efr (Corres. #2916901)
(5.costa.o)

cc: Susanna Valdez

BILL CLINTON

121

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ICAO REPORT

SECURITY COUNCIL

RECALLING THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 27 FEBRUARY 1996 STRONGLY DEPLORING THE SHOOTING DOWN BY THE CUBAN AIR FORCE OF TWO CIVIL AIRCRAFT ON 24 FEBRUARY 1996, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF FOUR PERSONS,

RECALLING THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) ON 6 MARCH 1996 WHICH STRONGLY DEPLORED THE SHOOTDOWN OF THESE TWO CIVIL AIRCRAFT AND WHICH DIRECTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO TO INITIATE AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO REPORT ON THAT INVESTIGATION,

NOTING THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF ICAO ON 27 JUNE 1996,

WELCOMING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, TRANSMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY ICAO ON 1 JULY 1996, REGARDING THE SHOOTDOWN OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT N2456S AND N5485S, AND NOTING IN PARTICULAR THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT:

- THAT N2456S WAS SHOT DOWN 9 NAUTICAL MILES OUTSIDE CUBAN TERRITORIAL AIRSPACE AND N5485S WAS SHOT DOWN APPROXIMATELY 10 NAUTICAL MILES OUTSIDE CUBAN TERRITORIAL AIRSPACE,
- THAT MEANS OTHER THAN INTERCEPTION WERE AVAILABLE TO CUBA, SUCH AS RADIO COMMUNICATION, BUT HAD NOT BEEN UTILIZED,
- THAT DURING THE INTERCEPTIONS, NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DIRECT N2456S AND N5485S BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF NATIONAL AIRSPACE, GUIDE THEM AWAY FROM A PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED OR DANGER AREA OR INSTRUCT THEM TO EFFECT A LANDING AT A DESIGNATED AERODROME, AND,
- THAT IN EXECUTING THE INTERCEPTION, THE STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR MANEUVERING AND SIGNALS BY THE MILITARY INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICAO PROVISIONS AND AS PUBLISHED IN AIP CUBA, WERE NOT FOLLOWED,

REAFFIRMING THAT THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ELEMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF HUMANITY AND NORMS GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND WITH THE RULES AND STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ENSHRINED IN THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND ITS ANNEXES;

1. ENDORSES THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE ICAO REPORT;
2. AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE THAT STATES MUST REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT AND THAT, WHEN INTERCEPTING CIVIL AIRCRAFT, THE LIVES OF PERSONS ON BOARD AND THE SAFETY OF THE AIRCRAFT MUST NOT BE ENDANGERED;

. CONDEMNS THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT AS BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH ELEMENTARY CONSIDERATIONS OF HUMANITY, THE RULES OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AS CODIFIED IN ARTICLE 3 BIS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, AND THE STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES SET OUT IN THE ANNEXES OF THE CONVENTION, AND STRONGLY DEPLORES THE ACTIONS OF CUBA ON 24 FEBRUARY 1996 IN THIS REGARD;

. STRESSES THAT THE FEBRUARY 24 SHOOTDOWN CONFLICTED WITH THE CHICAGO PRINCIPLE THAT INTERCEPTION OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AS A LAST RESORT;

. EXPRESSES DEEP REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF FOUR LIVES AND OFFERS ITS DEEP SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGIC EVENT;

. CALLS ON ALL PARTIES TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE RULES AND STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES SET OUT IN THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND ITS ANNEXES, AND;

. URGES ALL STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO TO RATIFY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ARTICLE 3 BIS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, AND TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE PENDING ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE; AND,

. REQUESTS TO REMAIN SEIZED OF THE MATTER AND CONSIDER FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION ANY FURTHER VIOLATION OF THE RULES AND STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ENSHRINED IN THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND ITS ANNEXES.

OLSEC 34462

MEMORANDUM TO ALEXIS HERMAN
FROM: SUZANNA VALDEZ
RE: SATURDAY'S CUBAN-AMERICAN EVENTS

The following is a description of Saturday's events:

AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT VISIT

- Ambassador met for lunch with Core group and had an extremely positive meeting where she re-emphasized her support for the Cuban-American community.
- Garnered very positive media coverage in the local Miami media. Her speech at the Orange Bowl memorial mass was a huge success, receiving a standing ovation, and setting the tone for our consequent public outreach into the community.

FLOTILLA/FLYOVER DEMONSTRATION

- Inclement weather derailed Saturday's demonstrations, causing the flotilla to turn back while still 24 miles from its destination. The air demonstration take-off was delayed by the weather and once in flight had to turn back early.

ORANGE BOWL MASS

- Turnout was better than expected, with approximately 40,000 in attendance despite the harsh weather.
- Ambassador Albright was warmly received while her remarks were enthusiastically received with a standing ovation.

MEDIA

- White House monitoring team translated the Ambassador's speech into Spanish and then sent it out to local radio stations and newspapers in both Miami and New Jersey.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. list	re: Contacts from Dade County [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	04/27/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Cuba File 1996 [binder] [1]

2016-0920-F
jm1916

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]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- 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]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Mirta
9234 SW
Terrace
Miami FL
33174

[003]

Maggi Kuly
305 662 1222
(n) 305 661 0301

RICARDO MENDEZ

SS
DOB

(b)(6)

DADE County
MIAMI AVIATION Dept. Director of Facility

MIRTA MENDEZ

SS
DOB

(b)(6)

BROTHER

Ocean Bank - Bank Officer
ASSISTANT, President

EDILFA PEREZ

SS
DOB

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DADE County Courts

Senior Justice Support Administrator

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Dropped semester due

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can for elected

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Cousin of Maria de la Peña

ESTER ROSAL

SS
DOB

(b)(6)

305-945-7534 or 220-2483

Grandmother of Maria de la Peña

Want justice expedited

Want to know POTUS supports us.

" " Show " what kind of people they are.

661-2145

-all address /
names
to send letter

TELEFAX MESSAGE

**U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
301 4TH ST., SW - ROOM 255
WASHINGTON, DC 20547
PHONE (202/619-6217)
FAX (202/205-0792)**

**FROM: LULA RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS**

DATE: 3/21/96

TO:

Suzanna

SUBJECT:

PAGE #1 OF 3

BOB GRAHAM
FLORIDA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0803

UNITED STATES MUST ADOPT FALLEN PILOTS' MISSION

Old dictators never die, but neither do they always fade away. For nearly forty years, Fidel Castro has brazenly and repeatedly violated the human rights of the Cuban people. And in recent months, Castro's increased harassment of independent journalists and political dissidents proved that he was unlikely to change his ways anytime soon.

But on February 24, Castro took his campaign of terror one step further. That day, the bearded dictator ordered the murder of four brave pilots who were conducting a humanitarian mission in international airspace. These men represented Brothers to the Rescue, a non-violent, humanitarian organization that assists Cuban rafters fleeing Castro's harsh rule.

In the weeks following the tragedy, we have fought hard to punish the Castro regime for its continued brutality. As an original co-sponsor of the Helms-Burton bill, I was pleased that both the Senate and the House of Representatives moved so quickly to pass it into law.

This law has a double-sided goal; to tighten the economic embargo around Castro's neck, while at the same time extending the hand of human rights and freedom to the Cuban people.

But enacting laws is not enough. If we are truly to speed the day when Cuba is free, we must ensure that the spirit of those fallen pilots lives on.

Their mission must become ours.

Last week, I had the privilege of meeting with some of the family members and friends of the lost pilots. One of them recounted a story about Mario De La Pena.

Last Christmas Eve, Mario was returning from a mission when he spotted a man stranded in the water. The thought of someone trapped in the Straits of Florida during Christmas haunted him. Even though the man was not a Cuban rafter, Mario woke up early the next morning and flew back to rescue the stranded boater.

Like Mario, the United States must continue to support people-to-people humanitarian efforts to free Cuba. We must maintain our financial commitment to non-governmental organizations working to encourage democracy in Cuba.

03-21-96 04:30 PM FROM SEN BOB GRAHAM

P03

Armando Alejandro, who also lost his life on February 24, embodied Brothers to the Rescue's determination to create awareness about Castro's atrocities. Armando didn't just look for rafters. He carried food and supplies to Cuban refugees stranded in the Bahamas. And he never passed on an opportunity to educate others about Fidel Castro's harsh rule.

Like Armando, we must doggedly pursue efforts to build international sympathy for the enslaved people of Cuba, especially among our Latin American trading partners.

Brothers to the Rescue pilots regularly take enormous risks. Another one of last weekend's victims, Carlos Costa, refused to allow fear of risks to overcome his sense of mission.

Carlos' sister tells me that he was terrified of the small Cessna he flew. The winds in the Straits of Florida violently buffeted his plane and frightened Carlos and his passengers. Yet he volunteered to fly his rescue plane every week. He flew on Christmas and other holidays.

We must also be willing to take risks to hasten Castro's fall from power. This may include standing up to some of our closest allies. But American policy toward Cuba is not about popularity or appearances. It is about liberating the Cuban people. I am willing to risk some nations' wrath to bring about that critical goal.

Most importantly, Brothers to the Rescue has always pursued its goals in a determined, focused manner. This was especially true of those pilots who themselves once were rafters, like Pablo Morales.

We, too, must maintain a clear understanding of what our objectives are: to support the legitimate aspirations of the Cuban people to replace Fidel Castro with a democratic, human rights-friendly government.

The weekend after the tragedy, the remaining Brothers made another trip to the Straits of Florida. This time, their goal was not to rescue but to memorialize those four fallen pilots.

Like the slain pilots, the boats and planes dispatched on this mission encountered tremendous obstacles. Mother Nature greeted them with rough seas, black skies, and fierce winds.

But when they stopped to lay wreaths in memory of their fallen colleagues, the black clouds disappeared. For a moment, the sun shone down on the boats gathered below, as if to smile upon their mission.

Brothers to the Rescue and its fallen pilots have been a ray of light in the black clouds hovering over the Cuban people. If we are to turn that ray of light into permanent sunshine, the United States must salute their mission by making it our own.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1996

MEETING WITH VICTIMS FAMILIES OF CUBA SHOOTDOWN

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1996
LOCATION: BILTMORE HOTEL
ROOM 1203
TIME: 4:50 pm
FROM: TONY LAKE
ALEXIS HERMAN
SUZANNA VALDEZ

I. PURPOSE

To show support for the families of victims that were shot down February 24 by the Cuban Government.

II. BACKGROUND

This meeting was requested by Senator Graham to follow-up on your introduction to the families at the signing of the Helms-Burton legislation on March 12 in the White House. The families are pursuing this meeting to stress that they are decent, law abiding and hard working Americans who are only seeking justice for the murders of their relatives.

The families will emphasize that three of the four victims were U.S. citizens and that the U.S. never allows its own to be murdered without repercussions. They strongly feel that there has not been sufficient effort in pursuing justice for their family members.

The families want the USG to issue indictments in U.S. courts against those responsible for the shootdown. They also will ask for the case to be brought before an international tribunal. The issue of monetary compensation for the families from frozen Cuban assets may also be raised.

NOTE: Attorney General Janet Reno should not attend this meeting. Her presence would highlight the legal issues the families are pursuing. The families may press for specifics on the legal avenues which we are not ready to discuss.

III. PARTICIPANTS
(See attached list)

IV. PRESS PLAN
Closed press

V. SEQUENCE

- o You enter, greet and take your seat.
- o Mr. Richard Mendez, group spokesman, will make brief presentation.
- o You make brief comments.
- o You depart.

VI. TALKING POINTS

NOTE: See NSC briefing memo for additional talking points

- o Stress the administration's efforts and success, through Congressman Menendez, in obtaining a U.S. sponsored United Nations Human Rights Commission vote condemning Cuba's shootdown of the planes and their crackdown on the Concilio (Cone-See-lio) Cubano, a broad coalition of Cuban human rights organizations.
- o Highlight UN Ambassador Madaleine Albright's efforts in the UN on behalf of the victims. Ambassador Albright is a very popular and supportive figure for the families.

NOTE: The families are hosting a fundraising dinner for her on May 11, with proceeds going to a scholarship fund in the names of the victims.

FAMILY'S REPRESENTATIVE**RELATION****VICTIM**

Mr. Richard Mendez
Mrs. Mirta Mendez

Brother-in-law
Sister

Carlos Costa
Age: 29
U.S. Citizen

Ms. Edilfa Perez

Cousin

Pablo Morales
Age: 29
Cuban Born
U.S. resident

Mrs. Marlene Alejandre
Ms. Marlene V. Alejandre
Ms. Ana Cierieszko
Ms. Maggie Khuly

Wife
Daughter
Sister
Sister

Armando Alejandre
Age: 45
U.S. Citizen
Vietnam Veteran

Ms. Raquel Perez
Ms. Ester Rosal

Cousin
Grandmother

Mario de la Pena
Age: 24
U.S. Citizen



MARIO DE LA PEÑA

Mario de la Peña, 24, was born in New Jersey, the son of Cuban immigrants, and grew up in Miami. The plight of Cuban rafters was his personal cause.

Studying to get his commercial pilot's license and working as an intern for American Airlines, he joined some of the Brothers' riskier missions: He was on the first Brothers plane to fly over Havana last year, dropping fliers.

"He said he wouldn't go in there again," said his cousin, Raquel Perez. "He didn't say why."

De la Peña lived with his parents in South Miami. His father, Mario, is the church accountant at St. Agatha Catholic Church in West Dade. His mother, Miriam, joins his father to counsel young couples at the church.

Part of a big family, de la Peña has been a source of pride and worry for his work with Brothers to the Rescue. He had the heart of a volunteer and was the first to come to the aid of family members after Hurricane Andrew.

Eduardo Dominquez, church member and friend of the family for 10 years, mourned the news of the shootdown.

"When you know the family, you always feel it more. It is very sad," he said. "It was inhumane. It is another tragedy for the Cuban community."



PABLO MORALES

Pablo Morales, 29, fled Cuba on a raft in 1992. A tiny dot on the open sea, his boat was spotted by a Brothers to the Rescue crew. He later joined the group, watching for other rafters while he trained for his pilot's license.

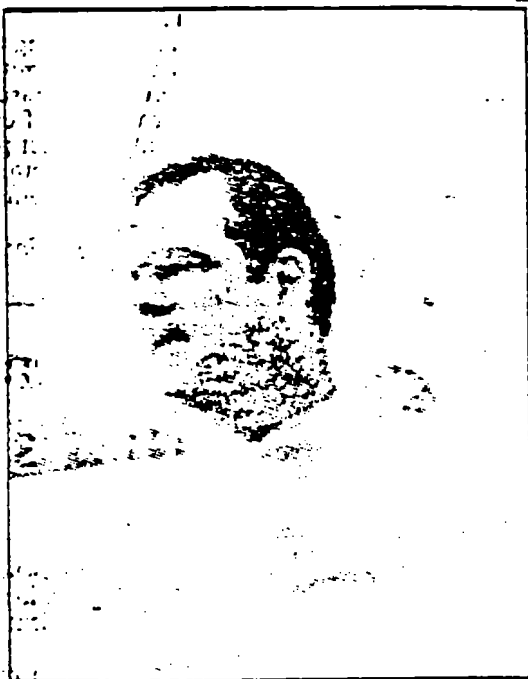
He left family back in Cuba — a brother, sister, parents and a niece — and he was often homesick. His girlfriend, Hady Hernandez, rushed to Opa-locka Airport after hearing the news and was sobbing openly, her faced buried in her hands.

Morales became close to the Hernandez family, which ran the business where he worked. He spent more time at El Sembrador Products than in his studio apartment in Hialeah, where he lived alone. He has an aunt and cousin here.

Hernandez had studied topography at a university in Cuba, but became angry with Castro's government. "It was all a farce," he once said.

The young Cuban rafter was featured in a 1994 Herald story after he chose to join the pilots' group that had spotted him in his flight from the island. He was described as a religious man.

"He wanted to be a part of them, to do whatever he could," said Yoice Hernandez, Hady's sister-in-law. "They saved his life."



ARMANDO ALEJANDRE JR.

Armando Alejandro Jr. was no stranger to the Cuban protest movement.

Although not a pilot, he was active in Brothers to the Rescue and had gone on several trips to take food and supplies to Cuban refugees stranded in the Bahamas. He also wrote articles about Cuba for *El Nuevo Herald* and *Diario las Americas*.

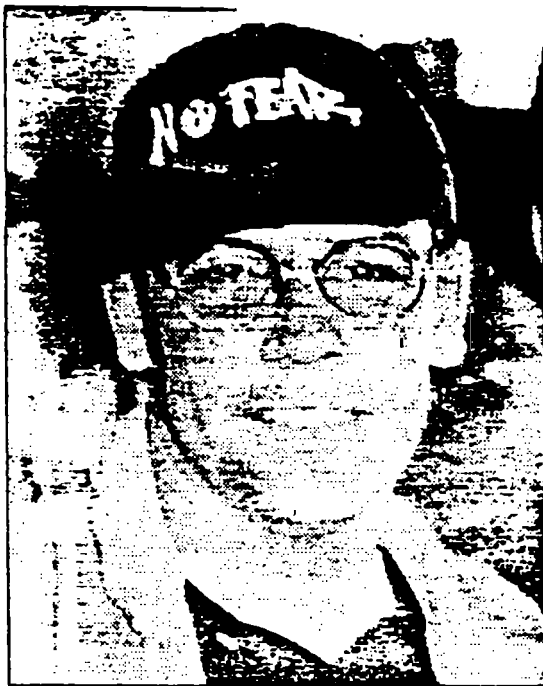
Alejandro, 45, was a militant presence in Cuban protest groups. Last fall, he traveled to New York to protest Fidel Castro's visit there. In February 1994, he broke his leg and was arrested after trying to jump a fence at the Cuban Interests Section during a demonstration in Washington.

But his sisters said Alejandro was evolving from a militant person into one who began to believe in the power of communication as a force of change.

"I think he would like to be remembered as a patriot," said Ana Alejandro Clereszko, a sister. "He felt very strongly about the efforts of the Brothers to the Rescue. He felt it was going to end the tyranny in Cuba. He has a sense of responsibility."

Alejandro had worked as a construction manager for Dade County, most recently employed as a transit cost estimator for the county's Department of Transportation. He was a Vietnam veteran and a towering presence at six feet, seven inches tall.

Alejandro has three older sisters; a wife, Marlene; and an 18-year-old daughter, also named Marlene, who is a freshmen at the University of Florida.



CARLOS COSTA

Carlos Costa, 29, was born in the United States and grew up in Miami. He graduated from Pace High School in 1984, and from Embry-Riddle aeronautical college in Daytona Beach. He was a human resources administrator at Miami International Airport, where he taught employment training classes among other duties.

Costa had been active in Brothers to the Rescue for more than three years. In addition to flying missions, he answered phones and handled administrative duties for the volunteer group, scheduling flights and even organizing picnics and fund-raisers.

His commitment was such that he flew on holidays, even Christmas.

"It was his life, morning, noon and night," said Mirta Mendez, his older sister.

Costa was single and lived with his parents Osvaldo and Mirta Costa in Northwest Dade. He made time for his family, taking his sister's three children to baseball games and other events.

"He was the fun uncle," said nephew Michael Mendez, 16.

Costa was also close to his fellow pilots and volunteers.

"He thought they really were his brothers," his sister said.

SHOOTDOWN BACKGROUND

On February 24, two civilian aircraft from the Brothers to the Rescue (BTTR) organization were shot down by Cuban MiGs. The two planes were in international airspace at the time of the downing. Ironically, a third aircraft, flown by BTTR president Jose Basulto had penetrated Cuban airspace at the time of the shootdown but was not pursued by the Cuban fighters.

BTTR seemingly scheduled this mission to Cuba on February 24 to show solidarity with the "Concilio Cubano" who was to have held its first conference in Havana the same day. The meeting however, was not allowed to take place by the Cuban government.

Concilio Cubano is an organization consisting of 144 different Human Rights and dissident groups that was formed in October of 1995. There had been modest surprise in the international community at Cuba's seemingly permissive stance towards the organization. The permissive stance came to an end in January 1996 when Concilio made public its intention of meeting in February 24. This declaration was too much for the Cuban government to take and they responded with a traditional Castro crackdown. The crackdown consisted of mass arrest and detention of dissidents and harassment of their families. The dissidents were kept incommunicado for extended periods of time. Several Concilio members received extended prison sentences, while others are still being detained without charges.

The European Union EU, who simultaneously had been looking to support the Cuban government and their fledgling economic reforms and the Concilio Cubano. The EU felt particularly embarrassed by the crackdown because they had publicly stated their support for Concilio and had even stated that the organization was now "under its wings", implying that they now protected the organization. It is believed that the embarrassment over the crackdown led to the swift and unanimous support for the U.S. sponsored UN resolution condemning the shootdown. This action stung and surprised the Castro regime, for they felt that the two issues were separate and distinct and felt that Cuba's relation with the EU had progressed significantly, notwithstanding the Concilio crackdown.

TALKING POINTS

- o I know that the shootdown occurred over international waters. It was a brutal and cowardly act, which reflects the repressive nature of the Castro regime.
- o The administration continues to pursue this issue vigorously. Aside from signing the Helms-Burton legislation into law, which you attended, we recently sponsored a UN resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Conference in Geneva condemning Cuba's human rights record, including the shootdown.

- o We are awaiting the results of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) investigation, which we feel will come out strongly in favor of our side. Once we have the results of this investigation, we will pursue other measures.

NOTE: SHOULD THEY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION TO PUSH FOR EITHER INDICTMENTS OF CUBANS OR TO BRING THE CASE TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

- o The president has stated, and I strongly agree, that we will pursue every avenue available to us, both domestically and internationally. However, before we can support any specific course of action, we must wait for the results of the ICAO investigation.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

President Clinton announced today that Madeleine K. Albright, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will represent him tomorrow at the Miami community's memorial service to honor the victims of the February 24 attack on two U.S. civilian aircraft by the Government of Cuba.

Ambassador Albright's untiring efforts on behalf of the United States produced Monday's strong condemnation by the United Nations Security Council of the Cuban Government's blatant violation of international law. She will express directly to the people of Miami and the Cuban American community the President's deepest sympathies for the families of the victims and his firm resolve to protect the lives of American citizens.

Ambassador Albright will speak at the Orange Bowl memorial service, meet with the organizers of the memorial and with the families of the victims, and explain to the people of Miami the United States' response to the events of last Saturday.

The memorial service will take place at 5:30 p.m., March 2, at the Orange Bowl.

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PRESS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

Last Saturday, in broad daylight, with premeditation, and without warning, the Government of Cuba shot down two unarmed, civilian aircraft off the coast of Florida. The victims, American citizens and a resident of our country, were not the first, but must be the last Americans to die at the hands of a reckless dictatorship 90 miles from our shores.

This blatant violation of international law demanded a strong response. At the instructions of President Clinton, I convened an emergency session of the UN Security Council. One day later the Council unanimously and strongly deplored the Cuban action. This condemnation by the UN has been joined to many other condemnations from around the world, making it clear that this is not a conflict between the United States and Cuba, but an indictment of the lawless behavior of the Cuban government by the entire civilized world.

President Clinton also announced on Monday several unilateral actions. He directed his advisers to seek a compromise with the Congress on the pending Helms/Burton legislation. Two days later that compromise was achieved and a strong message will be sent to Cuba from a bipartisan majority vote of the Congress and the signature of President Clinton on this legislation to strengthen the existing economic embargo of Cuba. This week the power of Radio Marti was doubled and it will soon send its message of hope and freedom on additional broadcast frequencies. Additional restrictions on the movement of Cuban diplomats in the US and their entry into the United States have been imposed. And we have suspended all charter flights from the US to Cuba.

I am here today at the request of the President to honor the dead and to offer his condolences to the families of the victims. We will help them to seek justice for the crimes committed against their loved ones. And I will join thousands of their friends and neighbors at a memorial service later today. We all pray that today will be a day of peace and remembrance. But the President has taken steps to ensure the safety of American lives and to deter unlawful behavior by the Government of Cuba.

For three years our Administration has worked to encourage Cuba's peaceful transition to democracy. Today the people of Cuba know more than ever that we are at their side in their struggle for freedom. We will continue every effort to hasten the day when all Cubans live in a land of freedom and democracy.

Thank you.

SANCHEZ STATEMENT

After carefully evaluating today's request by the White House to the Democracy Movement, and having received a similar request yesterday by the families of the four young men killed by Castro's Migs on the 24th of February, the Democracy Movement hereby announces that in light of the upcoming proceedings before the U.N. Security Council regarding the ICAO report, and in order to preserve the best possible conditions for a better chance to obtain a ruling of the U.N. Security Council against Castro's regime, the Memorial Flotilla will not enter Cuban jurisdictional waters or airspace during the July 13th ceremonies.

We give full assurances to the United States government, those concerned in the International Community, and the relatives of the four young men killed in the downing of the planes as well as to those who have been praying for our well being and success both here and in our homeland, that we will abide by our commitment set forth here and remain in International waters throughout the whole event.

Furthermore, we wish to recognize the goodwill and understanding shown by the White House and the State Department in this process and in furthering the cause for a free and independent Cuba, and their willingness to work with the non-violent civil action movements to end totalitarian rule in Cuba.

We hope that the emerging partnership between the pro-Democracy movements and the White House born of a mutual respect for the interests of the people of both nations, could result in attracting the active solidarity of the International Community to the freedom of the oppressed people of Cuba.

We express our recognition and gratitude to all those involved in facilitating this new road of mutual understanding, especially to Congressman Robert (Bob) Menendez without whose assistance this would not have been possible.

2/26/96 1:30 p.m.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS ON THE CUBAN INCIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 26, 1996**

96 FEB 26 P2:

Two days ago, in broad daylight and without justification, Cuban military aircraft shot down two civilian planes in international airspace. Search and rescue efforts by the Coast Guard, which began immediately after we received news of this incident, have failed to find any of the four individuals who were aboard the airplanes.

These small airplanes were unarmed. Cuban authorities knew that. They posed no credible threat to Cuba's security. Although the group that operated the planes had entered Cuban airspace in the past on other flights, there is no excuse for this attack. We must be clear: this shooting down of civilian aircraft was a flagrant violation of international law. It is wrong, and the United States will not tolerate it.

Saturday's attack is further evidence that Havana has become more desperate in its efforts to deny freedom to the people of Cuba. Also on Saturday, the Cuban Council -- a broad group that wants to bring democracy to Cuba -- had planned a day of peaceful discussion and debate. Instead, in the days leading up to this gathering, scores of activists were arrested and detained. Two already have been sentenced to long terms in prison. They join roughly one thousand others in Cuban jails because of their desire for freedom.

Now, the downing of these planes demands a firm response -- both by the United States and the international community.

Last night, on my instructions, Ambassador Albright convened an emergency session of the UN Security Council to condemn the Cuban action and present the case for sanctions on Cuba until it agrees to abide by its obligations to respect civilian aircraft and compensates the families of the victims. In the meantime, I am asking that Congress pass legislation that will provide immediate compensation to the families out of Cuba's blocked assets in the United States.

Today, I am also ordering the following unilateral actions:

First, I will move promptly to reach agreement with Congress on the pending Helms-Burton Cuba legislation so that it will enhance the effectiveness of the embargo in a way that advances the cause of democracy in that country.

Second, I have ordered that Radio Marti expand the reach of its broadcasts into Cuba. All the people of Cuba must learn the truth about the regime in Havana...and the isolation it has earned for itself...through its contempt for basic human rights.

2

Third, I am ordering that additional restrictions be put on travel in the U.S. by Cuban officials who reside here and that visits by Cuban officials to our nation be further limited.

Finally, all charter air travel from the U.S. to Cuba will be suspended indefinitely.

In our time, a tide of democracy has swept the globe -- from the Philippines, exactly ten years ago...to Central and Eastern Europe...to South Africa...to Haiti and all but one nation in our hemisphere. I will do everything in my power to see that this historic tide reaches the shores of Cuba.

These deliberate actions are the right ones at this time. They respond to Havana in a way that serves our goals of accelerating the arrival of democracy in Cuba. But I am not ruling out any further steps in the future should they be required.

Saturday's attack was an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime. It is repressive, violent and scornful of international law. Cuba must answer for its action.

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*link to
all people
participated
meeting*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 26, 1996

FACT SHEET ON CUBA

The President has directed his Administration to take the following steps immediately in response to the Cuban Government's blatant violation of international law:

- Seek rapid international condemnation of Cuba's actions.
 - The European Union today strongly condemned the Cuban shutdown.
 - The United States will seek United Nations Security Council condemnation and press that sanctions be imposed until Cuba provides compensation to the families of victims and abides by international law.
 - The United States will seek condemnation of Cuba by the International Civil Aviation Organization and other relevant international bodies.
- Move promptly to reach agreement with Congress on the pending Helms-Burton Cuba legislation so that it will enhance the effectiveness of the embargo in a way that advances the cause of democracy in that country.
- Request the Congress to pass legislation authorizing payment of compensation to the families of victims out of Cuban blocked accounts in New York.
- Restrict the movement of Cuban diplomats in the U.S. and tighten criteria for issuing visas to employees of the Cuban government.
- Increase support for Radio Marti to overcome jamming by Cuba.
- Indefinitely suspend all commercial charter flights to Cuba.

#

(2)

*** Freezing United Nations dollars going to Cuba. "A country that cannot live by the rule of international law should not receive monies from the United Nations that promotes the rule of international law," Menendez said.

*** Limit to \$50 all money transfers between the United States and Cuba as well as all licenses for visits to Cuba.

*** Revoke the visas of personnel from the Cuban Interests Section.

*** Indefinitely halt all migration talks between the United States and Cuba.

*** Increasing the transmission capabilities of TV Marti.

"We must make our message clear and unequivocal," Menendez concluded. "Aggression against innocent civilians will not be tolerated. Now is the time to bring an end to the last communist dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere."

MEMORANDUM FOR HAROLD ICKES

FROM: ALEXIS HERMAN
 SUZANNA VALDEZ

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 1996

SUBJECT: CUBA BRIEFING

Background

The Cuban-American community has been restrained in their reaction to Saturday's shoot down of the Brothers to the Rescue aircraft. The community has responded favorably to both the President's and Secretary of State's statements on the incident. They are, however, expecting a strong and decisive response from the administration. Today's proposed briefings offer a unique opportunity to confirm our commitment to the Cuban-American community.

The purpose of this briefing is to consult with and inform the Cuban-American leadership in Florida and New Jersey. The briefing is meant to convey the seriousness with which the President is treating the incident and to allow for representatives of the Cuban-American community to share their views and make recommendations for subsequent action.

Briefing Description

We have recommended two meetings on Monday targeting representatives of Cuban-American community and Congressional members. The first meeting will include our core group supporters with Alexis Herman and Harold Ickes at the White House. This meeting will include Congressman Menendez and should provide a strong vehicle for validating our policy decisions.

The second meeting will take place at the State Department and will be for a larger group that will include a cross-section of the Cuban American community, including Republican Cuban-American Congressional members that have been critical of the administration's response. This meeting is a general briefing designed to consult, inform and engage community leaders.

Although all the contacts have been made, given the urgency of the issue, the possible travel difficulties -- due to short notice -- we will propose a contingency plan, should it be required.

Dear Jorge:

Thank you for taking the time to write and share with me your concerns about the steps I have taken in dealing with the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes. I was concerned that you did not attend my meeting with the Core Group, but I was told you were unable to make travel arrangements.

I have asked the Core Group to continue to work together and be engaged in this ongoing process of US-Cuba relations. While we may not agree on every aspect of decisions that I have made in response to Cuba's actions, I greatly value your friendship and counsel and hope that you continue providing my administration with your views and insights. I have asked Suzanna Valdez to contact you so you may convey any additional concerns. I look forward to seeing you on my next trip to Miami.

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages > 1

To	SUZANNA VALDEZ	From	R. RUCA
Dept./Agency	WHS - Public Liaison	Phone #	703 697 9301
Fax #	202 - 456 - 6218	Fax #	

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20547

Office of International Visitors

6/6/96
S.

Suzanne
I think Ambassador
Albright's press coverage
in Miami merits being
shown to the President
including her own personal
donation of \$1,000 to the
scholarship fund. Although
the media's attention was yet
diverted by the Value Jet
accident on the same day,
her "Spanish" coverage
was ample and
very positive
Conito
Rula

A Testimonial to Ambassador Albright by the Cuban Exiles

Saturday night, May 11th, as scheduled, a huge testimonial dinner was offered in honor of Ambassador Madeleine Albright, United States Representative at the UN and, therefore, Representative at the Security Council, to thank her for her identification with the cause of Cuba's freedom. Of course, tribute was paid there to the memory of the four young Cuban martyrs: Armando Alejandro, Jr.; Carlos Costa; Mario de la Peña, and Pablo Morales. Actually, the reason for this testimonial dinner was the Ambassador's stand regarding this tragic slaying of these four men that caused indignation throughout the civilized world.

Sixteen hundred persons attended this dinner with patriotic devotion, with a lofty civic spirit and profound human feelings proving, again, that the Cuban exile knows how to rally around their fundamental patriotic issues. More than three hundred could not attend for lack of space. It is a fact that on March 3rd this exile organized a mammoth demonstration attended by over sixty thousands persons who gathered in the Orange Bowl Stadium to honor the four martyrs and to reiterate their unyielding determination to continue fighting for Cuba. Ambassador Albright was also present there and she gave an encouraging speech with touching expressions of sorrow regarding the slaying of the four brave Cubans.

After covering the basic expenses for the banquet, which were kept at a minimum, at least thirty-five thousand dollars will be used to fund scholarships in memory of the four martyrs. Furthermore, there will be other contributions besides what was paid to attend the banquet, beginning with a personal donation of one thousand dollars from Ambassador Albright. No better use could be given to that money than to fund the scholarships in memory of the four slain heroes.

As was rightly mentioned by A. Armando Alejandro, the merit for the organization of this extraordinary banquet belongs to many individuals, to immediate family members of the martyrs and others working with the respected "Brothers to the Rescue" organization, as well as groups who supported this event that upheld the moral values of this Cuban exile whose cause is the object of the unyielding devotion and loyalty from the children of Martí's fatherland.

An exile that after thirty-seven years is able to bring about the huge rally of March 3rd, and the extraordinary banquet of May 11th, deserves liberty.

*Personal
Donation
by
Ambassador
Albright*

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Martes 14 de Mayo de 1996

El Homenaje del Exilio Cubano a la Embajadora Albright

En la noche del sábado 11 de mayo, como estaba anunciado, se llevó a cabo un inmenso banquete de reconocimiento por su identificación con la causa de a libertad de Cuba para la Embajadora Madeleine Albright, Representante de los Estados Unidos de América en las Organización de las Naciones Unidas y, por consiguiente, Representante ante el Consejo de Seguridad. Por supuesto, allí se le rindió tributo a la memoria de esos cuatro mártires de la juventud cubana: Armando Alejandro, hijo; Carlos Costa; Mario de la Peña y Pablo Morales. En realidad, la actitud de la Embajadora que motivó este acto giró exclusivamente alrededor de esta tragedia que tanto ha indignado al mundo civilizado.

Mil seiscientas personas asistieron con devoción patriótica, con alto espíritu cívico y con profundo sentimiento humano a esa gran cena que demuestra, una vez más, que el exilio cubano sabe unirse en torno a los temas fundamentales de su patria. Más de trescientas personas no pudieron adquirir sus boletos para asistir, por falta de espacio. Ya el 3 de marzo, sin lugar a dudas, ese exilio dio una demostración gigantesca de más de sesenta mil personas que se reunieron en el estadio del Orange Bowl para rendirles homenaje a los cuatro mártires y para reiterar su inquebrantable decisión de seguir luchando por Cuba. Allí compareció también la Embajadora Albright y pronunció un alentador discurso con conmovedoras expresiones de dolor con respecto al asesinato de los cuatro ilustres cubanos mencionados.

Después de los gastos básicos mantenidos en nivel mínimo, correspondientes al banquete, se usarán por lo menos treinta y cinco mil dólares para otorgar becas que llevarán los nombres de estos cuatro mártires. Además, hay que contar con otras aportaciones económicas independientes de lo que se pagó por los cubiertos del banquete, comenzando por una donación personal de mil dólares hecha por la Embajadora Albright. Ningún destino mejor para ese dinero que el de otorgar esas becas en memoria de los cuatro asesinados.

Como lo expresó acertadamente A. Armando Alejandro, el mérito de la organización de este magnífico banquete corresponde a muchas personas, familiares inmediatos de los mártires y otras vinculadas a la prestigiosa organización "Hermanos al Rescate", así como a grupos que ofrecieron su apoyo a este acontecimiento que puso en alto los valores morales de este exilio cubano cuya causa es objeto de devoción y lealtad inquebrantables de parte de los hijos de la patria de Martí.

Un exilio que, después de treinta y siete años de lucha es capaz de producir la gran concentración del 3 de marzo y el magnífico banquete del 11 de mayo merece la libertad.

NOTICIAS

MIAMI Y FLORIDA

Miami, Florida, Martes 14 de Mayo de 1996

Más de 1,500 personas en el homenaje a la Embajadora Albright

Por ARIEL REMOS

"Hemos dado la evidencia a los investigadores de Naciones Unidas", de que los aviones de Hermanos al Rescate "y su valiosa carga humana fueron agredidos ilegalmente y sin justificación alguna... y el Presidente Clinton está determinado a que el gobierno de Cuba tenga que aceptar la responsabilidad por estos asesinatos", dijo la Embajadora de EE.UU. en la ONU, Madeleine Albright, en el banquete ofrecido el sábado en su honor por el exilio cubano, y en memoria de los cuatro mártires del 24 de febrero, víctimas de la tiranía de Fidel Castro: Armando Alejandro, hijo, Carlos Costa, Pablo Morales y Mario de la Peña.

En comentario aparte de su discurso, la embajadora afirmó que no se ha podido comprobar que una voz que aparece en las grabaciones de un intercambio con la torre de control de La Habana, en poder del gobierno, sea la de Raul Castro, pero, no obstante, el gobierno norteamericano está convencido de que la orden del derribamiento de los aviones de Hermanos al Rescate fue impartida desde los más altos niveles del régimen.

Una vez más, Albright acusó a la tiranía no sólo de haber come-

tido el vil asesinato de los cuatro jóvenes, sino de mentir, "negando, distorsionando y desnaturalizando los hechos". Castro mintió cuando dijo que los aviones de Hermanos al Rescate estaban en el espacio aéreo cubano; mintió cuando dijo que Hermanos al Rescate era una organización terrorista; y mintió cuando dijo que EE.UU. era culpable de la tragedia.

"En este hemisferio", expresó después, "solo un país sigue sin ser libre", pero "a su gobierno se le está acabando el tiempo". Y criticó a aquellos que aquí y alrededor del mundo no ven en Castro la represión y el terror, o se dejan seducir por el atractivo de las "ganancias financieras".

La embajadora recibió emocionada el tributo de los exiliados cubanos, lo que reflejó en sus palabras iniciales cuando dijo que "nunca me he sentido más en mi hogar como aquí en Miami esta noche... porque la de ustedes es una comunidad que ama la libertad y aprecia sus valores".

El producto del banquete será invertido en un Fondo para cuatro becas que llevarán los nombres de Armando Alejandro, Mario de la Peña, Pablo Morales y Carlos Costa, tal como anunció la flamante maestra de ceremonia, Silvia

Iriondo, que condujo el acto en todo momento a la altura de las circunstancias.

La presencia de los padres y familiares de las cuatro víctimas, las palabras de recordación de Miriam de la Peña, madre de Mario de la Peña, y Armando Alejandro, padre, elevaron al máximo el nivel emotivo del acto, que revistió una imperturbable solemnidad.

Miriam de la Peña hizo una bella semblanza de los cuatro mártires, con un aplomo y una expresión contenida que no dejó de reflejar dolor, entereza y dignidad. Esas virtudes en ella y en las madres cubanas que han sido las grandes heroínas en esta larga y dolorosa jornada, fueron exaltadas en sus primeras palabras por Armando Alejandro, uno de los principales factores en la organización del evento, al que concurrieron más de 1,500 personas.

Alejandro se refirió al abatimiento de las dos avionetas de Hermanos al Rescate y la muerte de sus cuatro tripulantes, como "uno de los crímenes que el mundo, casi en su totalidad, ha condenado". Asimismo recordó el acto del 2 de marzo en el Orange Bowl donde se rindió tributo a las cuatro víctimas y a la participación protagónica en él de

la embajadora Albright, que llevó al seno de las Naciones Unidas la condena que fue adoptada por el organismo. "Con ella asumimos una deuda y nuestra gratitud por su entereza y combatividad, que estamos saldando

(Viene de la Pág. 1B)

con este homenaje, en que están representadas todas las posiciones decorosas y dignas de los que luchan por una nueva Cuba libre, independiente y soberana", dijo Alejandro. Se refirió también a la aprobación de la Ley Helms-Burton, y al papel que jugaron en ella y siguen jugando en la lucha por Cuba, los tres congresistas de origen cubano, Bob Menéndez, Lincoln Díaz-Balart e Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Los tres estuvieron presentes en el acto y fueron objeto de cálidas demostraciones de afecto por parte del público.

En el acto fue exhibido un corto metraje con el título "Searching for Freedom" (Buscando Libertad), producido por Joe Serrano, Amy Cardona y Eduardo Palmer, en que se pasa revista a los más destacados acontecimien-



De izquierda a derecha, de pie, José Luis Ferré, Jorge Azze, Jr., Alina Mayo-Azze, Eudoro Galindo Anze, Dr. Horacio Aguirre, Dr. Enrique Huertas y Dr. Ariel Remos. Sentadas, Helen Aguirre, de Ferré, Helen Craigie de Aguirre, Karen A. de Galindo y Alicia Remos. (Foto GORT.)

tos que marcan estos 37 años de tragedia cubana, desde la asun-

ción del poder por la revolución comunista, Girón, la crisis de los cohetes, los vuelos de la libertad, hasta los sucesos de la embajada de Perú, Mariel, el fenómeno recurrente de los balseros, el hundimiento del 13 de Marzo, el abatimiento de los aviones el 24 de febrero, y la ley Helms-Burton. El documental está avalado por los comentarios de Anna Ge-

yer, Mark Falcoff, Irving Horowitz, Vernon Walters, Antonio Jorge, Jaime Suchlicki, José Baskulto, Jeane Kirkpatrick, Silvia Iriondo.

La invocación estuvo a cargo de dos figuras religiosas de gran popularidad en el exilio: el Padre Emilio Vallina y el Reverendo Martín Añorga.



A. Armando Alejandro, decano del Colegio Nacional de Periodistas de Cuba en Exilio, y padre de Armando Alejandro, Jr., caído en el derribo de la avionetas, con la Embajadora de EE.UU. ante Naciones Unidas, Madeleine Albright, Silvia Iriondo de M.A.R., y el representante federal, Bob Menéndez. (Foto GORT.)

El congresista Lincoln Díaz-Balart habla con Nancy Moraba, Eva Barba y Nelson Morales, familiares de Pablo Morales, una de las víctimas del derribo de las avionetas. (Foto GORT.)





ANDRES OPPENHEIMER

THE OPPENHEIMER REPORT

Owed fees may weaken U.S. clout at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS: You don't pay, you don't play. Fighting congressional moves to reduce U.S. funding for the United Nations, senior U.S. diplomats are saying that the growing U.S. debt to the international body will weaken America's weight in upcoming U.N. debates over Israel's invasion of Lebanon and Cuba's downing of two U.S. civilian planes.

U.S. Ambassador **Madeleine Albright** told Herald editors over the weekend that the more than \$1 billion owed by the United States has created "a serious cash-flow problem" that is undermining America's clout in the world body at a key time.

"Every time I want something now, it is harder and harder to get because we are such large debtors," Albright said. "When the issue of the [Cuban] shoot-down came out, I had to press very hard. . . . Some of that had to do with the fact that people said, 'You don't pay, you don't play.'"

The Clinton administration is proposing a five-year payback plan, subject to U.N. reforms, that it hopes will meet U.S. congressional demands. Among the proposed reforms: deep cuts in the U.N. Economic and Social Council, a development-focused agency, and the addition of Germany and Japan to the 15-member Security Council.

But the U.S. demands are seen by most developing countries as grossly unfair. They fear the Security Council would become a rich countries' club and argue that the Economic and Social Council has long been the U.N. branch most geared to address their needs.

Latin American diplomats say none of this will help U.S. diplomats in coming weeks, when the Security Council is to debate Israel's attack on a U.N. camp in Lebanon and Cuba's Feb. 24 downing of the two planes.

To: "Young, Urenia"
From: Rodriguez, Lula
Subject: Fwd: IVs and the National Guard Bureau
Date: 6/5/96 Time: 4:03PM

Originated by: SHINKMAN @ WASHDC on 6/5/96 3:09PM
Forwarded by: LRODRIGU @ WASHDC on 6/5/96 4:03PM (CHANGED)

6/5/96 - 1520

Lula: Jack is going over to the Pentagon on June 20th (Thursday) at 2:00 p.m. to meet with General Baca, head of the National Guard Bureau, to discuss cooperation between the Guard and USIA (E/V).

Would you be free to attend the meeting with Jack (and Wray Johnson)?

Thanks, Buck

Rainy, please schedule and get info from buck, thanks, Lula

Who Ordered the Slayings of February 24th is Irrelevant

Any lengthy and hairsplitting discussion about who gave the order to slay the crews of the two Brothers to the Rescue small planes flying over free waters, has no importance whatsoever. It is a well-known fact that a measure of this nature, so monstrous, can not be taken in a tyranny such as the one oppressing the Cuban people unless it has the approval of the top echelon.

In a way it is a total waste of time to discuss this issue although in order to know the interiorities of the way the regime works it could be helpful to know how those instructions were given. Those orders cost the Fidel Castro regime a steep price, to the point that they forced the President of the United States to sign a law --the Helms-Burton-- that he would not have signed were it not for this international crime. At least that is what can be inferred from a number of opinions and positions taken by the White House regarding the bill.

The fight must go on so that the sacrifice of those four young martyrs not be in vain. Let it serve to spur a world-wide reaction against the tyranny that has been oppressing the noble Cuban people for over thirty-seven years. The same could be said regarding any other people.

This Saturday a very important political event will take place in Miami where a dinner of brotherhood and solidarity with the Cuban people will be held in honor of an outstanding American woman who represents this great nation, with the rank of Ambassador in the United Nations Organization. Ambassador Madeleine Albright earned the respect and admiration of thousands around the world when she confronted the representatives of the Castro tyranny in the U.N. Security Council to ask for the condemnation of the Havana regime. She was firm in her well-reasoned arguments about the crime. And afterwards, she came to Miami to attend a touching rally with more than sixty thousands Cubans at the Orange Bowl Stadium to honor the four patriots murdered by Castro's Soviet MiGs.

The details about who gave the order to murder those four brave Cubans: Armando Alejandro, Jr., Carlos Costa, Pablo Morales and Mario de la Peña make no difference regarding the monstrosity involved. It was always known that such an order could only come from those who have total control of the tyranny that oppresses Cuba.



Siempre recordaremos a González cuando nos vimos una vez en el Aeropuerto (rú, en 1967, regresando yo a de una Conferencia de la O un viaje a la capital peruana José, Costa Rica, donde radicaba de ALFALIT, la organización dora de la que era don Justo dirigente.

Este recuerdo se ha hecho el bien ilustrado catálogo recientemente la organización LIT, donde aparece un retrato valioso hombre de Dios, la esposa Luisa, y la estrecha relación de Eulalia Cook González labor benefactora de esta educativa.

Fue en 1942 cuando el Laubach, iniciador del método de la lectura que lo hizo famoso su innovador sistema en pondió a la señora Cook comienzo a la primera candidatura de Baguanos, Orier

El método de Laubach, en muchos países del mundo, marcha a millones de seguidores antes se hallaban pocos seguidores y marginados por no poder escribir.

Laubach, quien era un graduado en Princeton

BELLSOUTH

Las acusaciones de Hale son la base de la argumentación de los fiscales, que se han arriesgado al apoyarse en el ex banquero pues éste ha admitido haber cometido fraudes y haber mentido bajo juramento en el pasado.

Clinton

rogaron durante 37 minutos. gados de la defensa que le inter-

tribunal que hace 10 años, cuando de Arkansas, Clinton le prestó a Susan McDougal un préstamo que en realidad estaba destinado

respaldata por fondos del es-

Sábado 11 de Mayo de 1996

No Importa Quién Haya Ordenado el Asesinato del 24 de Febrero

Cualquier discusión bizantina --por decirlo así-- en torno a quién dio la orden de asesinar a los cuatro tripulantes de las dos avionetas de Hermanos al Rescate en espacio aéreo libre, no tiene ninguna trascendencia fundamental. Ya se sabe que una medida de semejante naturaleza, tan monstruosa, no se puede tomar dentro de un tipo de tiranía como la que sufre el pueblo cubano si no es de acuerdo con la jerarquía máxima de esa tiranía.

En cierto modo es una pérdida absoluta de tiempo discutir sobre este tema aunque, para los fines de conocer interioridades del funcionamiento del régimen, puede ser útil saber cómo se tramitaron semejante instrucciones que tan caras le han costado al régimen de Fidel Castro, hasta el extremo de obligar al Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América a firmar una ley --la Helms-Burton-- que de no haber sido por este crimen internacional no la habría firmado. Por lo menos eso se deduce de una serie de opiniones y actitudes de la Casa Blanca con respecto a esa ley.

Hay que luchar para que el sacrificio de esos cuatro jóvenes que han alcanzado la categoría de mártires no sea en vano. Que sirva para estimular la reacción mundial contra esa tiranía que lleva más de treinta y siete años sojuzgando a un pueblo noble como el cubano. Y lo mismo podría decirse de cualquier otro pueblo.

Este sábado se llevará a cabo un acontecimiento de gran trascendencia política en la ciudad de Miami, cual es una cena de confraternidad humana y de solidaridad con el pueblo cubano en la cual se le rendirá homenaje a una mujer sobresaliente de la vida pública estadounidense, la que representa a esta gran nación, con la categoría de Embajadora, en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas. La Embajadora Madeleine Albright se ganó el respeto y la admiración de muchos cientos de miles de personas del mundo cuando se enfrentó a los representantes de la tiranía de Castro en el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas para pedir la condena al régimen de La Habana. Allí fue enérgica y razonada al condenar el crimen cometido. Y después, vino a Miami para asistir a una conmovedora concentración de más de sesenta mil cubanos en el estadio Orange Bowl para rendirle tributo a los cuatro patriotas asesinados por los aviones de procedencia soviética de Fidel Castro.

Los detalles de quien dio la orden de asesinar a esos cuatro valientes cubanos: Armando Alejandro, hijo, Carlos Costa, Pablo Morales y Mario de la Peña no significa cambio alguno en lo esencial de la monstruosidad cometida. Siempre se supo que esa orden sólo podía emanar de quienes tienen el control absoluto de la tiranía que oprime a Cuba.

aceptarlo cuando nos estamos a cosas homogéneas o, al menos, al punto de resultar en equivalentes.

Podemos, por ejemplo, llamarlo sin distinguos a nuestra mascota emplear esa misma denominación de un gato, sin exponer error de interpretación. Pero es el caso cuando las cosas en cuestión de semejarse, porque ya entonces de ser incongruentes nos estamos viendo a sufrir sus peligrosas consecuencias. Eso ocurre con la noción de la que se deriva el concepto de hispano, tan en uso entre nosotros.

Podemos dar por seguro que tratásemos a quienes los emplean por dichos términos habría de recibir las más diversas respuestas, gran mayoría equivocadas. Es por decir al respecto que el concepto de los mismos, el de hispanidad, se define sencillamente porque implica limitar y se trata de un concepto alto que escapa a toda posibilidad de cerrarlo en la estrecha cápsula de una definición.

Muchos, sin embargo, han sido tentados y los más de ellos llegarán a la conclusión de que la hispanidad es un conjunto de valores culturales de tanta índole que concurren en la de estirpe española, contribuyendo a medida a identificarlos. De los valores el del idioma de uso común es la más importante, pero para muchos baste y sobra que hable español como lengua materna para calificarlo de hispano.

Who Ordered the Slavings of



La libertad nunca se puede tomar en vano

Por la Embajadora Madeleine K. Albright

Este discurso de la Embajadora Madeleine K. Albright, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos en las Naciones Unidas, fue pronunciado en la cena ofrecida en su honor por el exilio cubano y en memoria de los cuatro mártires del 24 de febrero, en el hotel Radisson de Miami el 11 de mayo, 1996.

Yo nací en Checoslovaquia, crecí en Colorado, vivo en Washington y trabajo en New York. Hay varios lugares los cuales yo pudiera llamar mi hogar --sin embargo nunca me he sentido más en mi hogar que aquí, en Miami esta noche.

Yo me siento como en mi hogar aquí porque la de ustedes es una comunidad que ama la libertad y que aprecia sus valores, porque la experiencia de nuestras propias vidas nos han enseñado que la libertad nunca se debe tomar en vano.

Aquí esta noche está el pueblo, aquí están las familias, en todo nuestro alrededor se siente el espíritu que produjo seres como Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Peña y Armando Alejandro. Esta noche prometamos que sus nombres y sus vidas no serán olvidadas nunca. En esta noche, dedicamos en su honor un fondo monetario para becas estudiantiles para que los líderes del mañana puedan ejercer sus libertades y aspirar a una educación.

Es justo que hagamos esto, y yo misma como una estudiante que se educó por medio de las becas escolares, sé que sirven para abrir las puertas de la oportunidad, que se vieran cerradas de otra manera.

En una sociedad libre la educación es lo que hace que los ciudadanos puedan crecer y desarrollarse en toda la capacidad que nos ha dado Dios para pensar, cuestionar, crear y construir. La educación nos permite poder distinguir entre lo que es propaganda negativa y realidad. Entre la mentira y la verdad. Es por eso que la educación sirve como garantía y también como producto de la libertad.

Los estudiantes que reciban estas becas, aprenderán a indagar y a encontrar la verdad no como en una dictadura, a temer y deformar o negar la verdad. A ellos, la verdad les servirá de sendero a una vida llena de propósito.

Para un dictador, la verdad es una inconveniencia y una amenaza. Por eso es que los dictadores tantas veces tratan de agarrar la verdad y amarrarla como a un perro, racionalarla como al pan, o moldearla como al barro. Pero la verdad no se doma fácilmente. Está más allá del control de los tontos o los tiranos. Y, ciertamente mucho más allá del control de los que son tiranos y además tontos.

Examinemos la eventos del 24 de febrero:

Desde ese día lleno de horror, el Gobierno Cubano ha mentido, negado, distorsionado y pervertido los hechos acerca del crimen que cometieron.

Según La Habana, el avión de Hermanos al Rescate estaba en espacio aéreo cubano -- pero no lo estaba.

Según La Habana, Hermanos al Rescate es una organización terrorista, pero no lo es.

Según La Habana, los Estados Unidos habían prometido evitar que los Hermanos al Rescate volaran del todo, lo cual no es cierto, porque en contraste con Cuba los Estados Unidos son

un país libre.

Finalmente, según La Habana, son los Estados Unidos, no Cuba, los culpables de que haya ocurrido esta tragedia. Pero eso no es verdad.

La verdad es lo que ya el mundo sabe y nosotros no olvidaremos: estos aviones y su valiosa carga humana fueron agredidos ilegalmente y sin justificación alguna.

Hemos dado la evidencia de esta verdad a los investigadores de las Naciones Unidas y estamos decididos a que el gobierno de Cuba tenga que aceptar la responsabilidad por estos asesinatos. Fidel Castro no quiere hacer esto. A él le gustaría librarse de estas acusaciones frente al mundo, por medio de la propaganda y manipulación que usa dentro de la Isla. Hace mucho tiempo lo hubiera conseguido... pero el mundo está cambiando.

La verdad acerca de las instituciones democráticas y los países de libre empresa está surgiendo. Durante esta última década, casi dos billones de personas, en cinco continentes, y en más de cinco docenas de países, han emprendido el camino hacia una economía y un sistema político mucho más abierto.

Esta tendencia es Global. En este hemisferio, sólo un país sigue sin ser libre. Al gobierno de ese país se le está acabando el tiempo. ¿Cómo puede suceder esto? El comunismo fue creado para resolver los problemas que existían en el Siglo XIX, y así todo falló. Se volvió más prominente durante el siglo XX mientras asesinó y encarceló a miles y millones de personas. Ahora, en el umbral del siglo XXI --es un vestigio, una antigüedad amado sólo por aquellos que tienen miedo a enfrentarse al futuro. Una cárcel bienvenida sólo por los demagogos y los tirapiedras nerviosos que temen dejar atrás al pasado.

Como pudimos ver meses atrás, durante la visita de Castro a New York, todavía quedan aquellos en nuestro país y alrededor del mundo quienes ven en Castro no la realidad de su represión y terror, sino sólo lo que ellos quieren ver. Para algunos, es el atractivo de ganancias financieras. Para otros es el mito de que Castro es amigo del pobre. Y para aquellos que aún se oponen a la democracia, es el desprecio que Castro siente por el escrutinio internacional de los derechos humanos más básicos.

En la Comisión de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, Cuba se encuentra hombro con hombro con Irán, Iraq y Corea del Norte --un cuarteto de tiranos-- defendiendo el argumento que ningún gobierno tiene el deber de explicarle al mundo sus abusos de derechos humanos. Es por esto que la lucha en contra de la represión dentro de Cuba es tan importante. Porque esta es la lucha no de un solo pueblo, sino de todos los pueblos.

En juego está la integridad de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos, la cual dice que "la voluntad de los pueblos debe ser la base para la autoridad de su gobierno".

En juego están los principios que cimientan la Constitución de las Naciones Unidas reafirmando fe en "los derechos humanos fundamentales y la dignidad y valor de las personas humanas".

En juego está la habilidad de cada uno de nosotros de pensar y hablar libremente, de ser seres humanos y no robots, y de conducir nuestras vidas diarias sin miedo.

Es por eso que nos enriquecemos todos cuando una sociedad se libera de la represión hacia la luz de la libertad.

Por eso es que sí nos importa cuando el mundo se opone a las purificaciones étnicas en Croacia o Bosnia.

Cuando terroristas del Medio Oriente son detenidos. Cuando es restaurada la democracia en Haití y cuando se toman pasos hacia la liberación de Cuba.

Nadie debe sentirse solo en esta lucha. Porque es una lucha que ha incluido las energías y la valentía de la humanidad por varias generaciones.

Cuando yo era niña, mi padre trabajaba para un señor que se llamaba Jan Masaryuk, un líder de las fuerzas democráticas en Checoslovaquia. Según fue creciendo el Stalinismo en Europa Oriental, Mr. Masaryuk empezó a tener el brazo en cabestrillo. Un día le pregunté a mi padre "¿qué le pasó en el brazo a tío Jan?" y mi padre me contestó "nada le pasa en el brazo". Lo tiene sujetado de esa manera para no tener que darle la mano a los comunistas".

Jan Masaryuk nunca le dio la mano al comunismo. Como resultado perdió su vida, pero nunca perdió su dignidad, nunca perdió su honor, y como los cuatro héroes que honramos esta noche, nunca será olvidado.

Hace más de una generación, durante las horas más oscuras de la guerra fría, mi padre escribió que a pesar de los tanques soviéticos, los años de represión y las mentiras constantes: "... la chispa todavía existe. Uno no puede dudar que vuelva a estallar en llama y que la libertad vuelva a esta tierra que es tan esencialmente humana..."

Lo que él escribió entonces acerca de Checoslovaquia podría haber sido escrito ahora mismo acerca de Cuba. ¿O es que, puede alguien dudar que la chispa de la libertad sigue estando dentro del alma del pueblo cubano? ¿O es que, puede alguien dudar que un día esa chispa estallará en llama y la libertad regresará a Cuba?

O es que, puede alguien dudar que el espíritu de comunidad y compromiso que se siente aquí esta noche es una fuerza encaminada hacia el futuro --una fuerza constructiva motivada no por el odio sino por la compasión-- con fe no con violencia sino dentro de la ley. Estimulada por el poder de la verdad e inspirada por el ejemplo de Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Peña y Armando Alejandro.

José Martí dijo "como los huesos al cuerpo humano, el eje a la rueda, como el ala al pájaro y el viento al ala, así es la libertad la esencia de la vida".

Ningún rifle, ningún avión, ningún dictador puede crear una fuerza más poderosa. No tengan dudas, la ola de la libertad está levantándose. No tengan dudas, después de la oscuridad amanecerá una nueva era. No tengan dudas en el poder y la victoria de la verdad. No tengan dudas, que cuando yo me marche de aquí esta noche y regrese a New York, al Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, ustedes se mantendrán en mi mente y en mis oraciones.

Buenas noches. Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga.

Reproduction of Ambassador Albright's speech at event attended by 1,600 Cuban Americans

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

News Clips

Divider Title: _____

Inquiry on planes a blow to Castro

Panel: Attack not
in Cuban territory

By CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS
Herald Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A United Nations inquiry into Cuba's downing of two U.S. civilian aircraft Feb. 24 backs up the U.S. claim that the incident occurred over international waters, and not in Cuban territory.

Clinton administration and congressional sources have told The Herald this conclusion was reached by the United Nations' Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization.

It will deliver its conclusions separately to U.S. and Cuban diplomats later this week. Cuban diplomat Ricardo Alarcon is scheduled to be in Montreal today in preparation for the informal briefing.

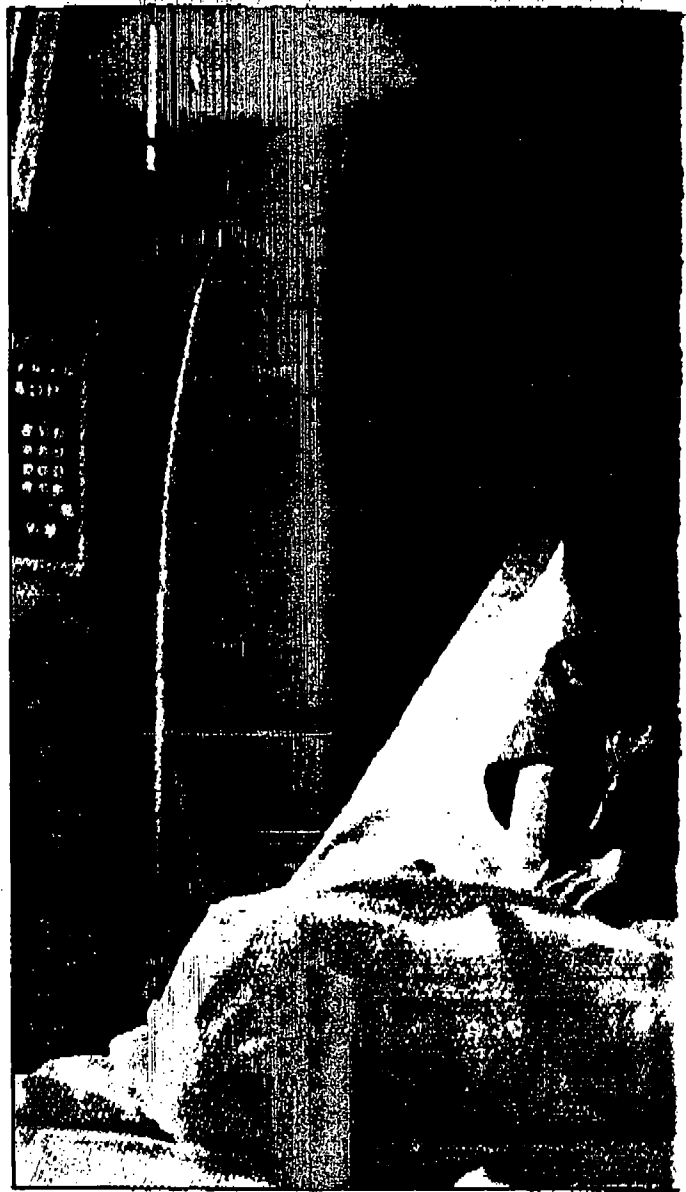
The report strikes a blow at the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro, which has argued that it acted in defense of Cuba's airspace. Four volunteer pilots of Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue, a Cuban exile group, died when Cuban air force MiG fighters downed the two unarmed planes.

Officials who have seen a preliminary draft of the report characterized it as "favorable" to the United States, which decried the attack as a "blatant violation of international law... and civilized behavior."

Bolstered by findings of the ICAO — an arm of the United Nations — the Clinton administration plans to seek action from the U.N. Security Council, including "condemnation, reparations and a threat of future Security Council action following [any repetition of the] incident," one administration official said.

Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff is scheduled to discuss the investigation at a press briefing today, officials said.

INFANT MAY SA



RENEWED HOPE: Paulette Lebed, who has leukemia, is

Cells could hel Rare blood-renewal proc

By STEPHEN SMITH
Herald Health Writer

Sometimes, one life begets another.

That is what happened one spring day inside a bustling Miami hospital suite, night melting into dawn, a swarm of doctors and nurses poised to celebrate the arrival of one life, the salvation of another.

It was a moment blessed with tremendous promise, this delivery of Mariam Lebed, second born of

when life-reple reaped from the bag, down a tub.

If it works before in South than 250 times have saved her.

And the two Paulette, will be for our era, abc and old-fashion in athine and t.

Planes weren't over Cuban waters when shot down, U.N. panel says

CUBA, FROM 1A
Both Cuba and U.S.
States had sought an investigation by the ICAO to determine which government had provided an accurate account of events. The four Cuban Americans killed in the incident were mourned as martyrs by many Miami exiles.

ICAO investigators traveled to Washington and Havana during their three-month investigation. The Clinton administration provided detailed maps of the routes flown by the planes and even tapes of transmissions between Cuban MiG pilots and their ground control.

Madeleine Albright, the scrappy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, endeared herself to much of Cuban Miami by producing a transcript of a gloating Cuban pilot as his MiG fired on one of the planes. Turning his earthy boast against him, Albright declared: "This isn't *cojones*, this is cowardice."

The Castro government, in contrast, waited more than a week to provide a substantiated account of its claim that the planes had been shot down within 12 miles of Cuban shores, the internationally recognized territorial limit.

On March 3, Havana released a videotape — produced with haunting music and elaborate graphics — that presented its "proof" that the planes were shot down in Cuban airspace. The tape showed a black leather flight bag, an English-language aviation chart and an electric battery charger, all of which were said to have been collected 9.3 miles off

The International Civil Aviation Organization will deliver its conclusions separately to U.S. and Cuban diplomats later this week.

the Cuban coast at 10 a.m. the day after the attack.

Doctored transcripts?

One congressional source familiar with the ICAO report said Wednesday that the Cuban government appears to have doctored transcripts of conversations between the MiG pilots and their ground control officer, who issued the command to fire.

"It's one of the largest gaps anybody's ever heard," said the source, who asked not to be identified.

Meanwhile, Cuban officials said they had demonstrated great restraint at not firing on previous flights by Brothers to the Rescue. Last July and twice in January, Brothers to the Rescue founder Jose Basulto and colleagues had flown over Havana, dropping anti-Castro leaflets.

After the Jan. 13 flight, Castro said he and his military chiefs had concluded that such violations of Cuban sovereignty "cannot happen again."

"It was so humiliating," the Cuban leader said later in a mag-

azine interview. "The U.S. would not have tolerated it if Washington's airspace had been violated by small airplanes."

U.S. criticized

While concluding that the Feb. 24 attack was unjustified and illegal, the ICAO investigators nevertheless criticize the United States for failing to rein in the exile pilots.

"They hit us a little bit on the fact that the U.S. should have done a little bit more a little bit earlier to keep them out of Cuban airspace," one U.S. official said.

Until last month, the Clinton administration had been reluctant to crack down on Basulto's flights. Federal aviation officials argued that a ban on Basulto's flights could be challenged as illegal prior restraint, and President Clinton's political handlers worried about clipping the wings of an exile hero.

In addition to the fallen airmen, another casualty of the Feb. 24 incident was the Clinton administration's carrot-and-stick policy toward Cuba. After the downing, Clinton adopted a tougher stance, signing the embargo-tightening Helms-Burton bill into law and dousing any hope of rapprochement between him and Castro.

On May 16, the Federal Aviation Administration — with a nod from the White House — revoked Basulto's pilot's license.

The ICAO plans to present its formal findings in a joint meeting with both Cuban and U.S. envoys next week.

Eighty Eight

14

A high-seas salute to the fallen

Flotilla battles stormy weather

By JOHN LANTIGUA
And PHIL LONG
Herald Staff Writers

KEY WEST — The four men had been at the bottom of 1,000 feet of water for a week, but their friends battled angry seas Saturday for the chance to say one last word to them.

Despite waves reported as high as nine feet and widespread sea sickness, 28 boats headed for the spot where four Cuban-Americans had been shot down.

Sleek, white fishing boats shuddered as they slammed into a wave, sending white froth 20 feet in the air. At times, many of the smaller boats in the flotilla became invisible — lost in the troughs between towering waves. People in bright orange life jackets struggled to keep their footing on storm-tossed decks. Waves crashed over the bows of other boats, drenching people in their yellow rain slickers and multicolored ponchos.

The boats left after dawn. Some had to turn back.

But by 1 p.m., the remaining boats were still short of where fliers Armando Alejandro Jr., Carlos Costa, Pablo Morales and Mario de la Pena went down a week before.

So they decided to hold the memorial at that spot — 45 miles from Cuba.

Democracia Movement leader Ramon Saul Sanchez had known Alejandro for years.

"During the ceremony, when I looked down at the water I wanted him and the others to suddenly come up and say: 'Here we are. We aren't dead,'" Sanchez said.

Andres Garcia, 49, of the Cuban American Veteran's Association, also knew Alejandro, the oldest of the four dead. Alejandro was a Marine who did two tours of duty in Vietnam.

"Armando was a patriot for both the United States and for Cuba," Garcia said. "We salute him and these other fallen young men."

Garcia was a passenger on the boat Sundowner II, which sank Sept. 2 in the second flotilla. Carlos Costa, another of the dead fliers, was the first pilot to arrive on the scene that day and drop life jackets and flares.

"Carlos was born here, but he had a dream to be in Cuba one day," Garcia said. "He didn't make it, but because people like him give their lives, others will make it some day."

Sanchez, who knew all the downed fliers, talked about their dreams.

"They weren't like other people who talked about the hurts of the past. They talked about their dreams. Those dreams have to do with a new Cuba."

13

In Cuba, pilot gets a salute Family stages discreet rites

By CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS
Herald Staff Writer

HAVANA — It is a hard thing to watch an old woman weep.

Eva Librada Barbos, 71, sat quietly in a darkened room Saturday morning listening to her children recount how they had commemorated the death of her son, Brothers to the Rescue pilot Pablo Morales, killed by Cuban fighter pilots last week.

Her voice was weak, so she only spoke in whispers and hand signs, leaving it to the children to vent their anguish and outrage, their fears for their livelihood in Cuba and their desperate hope to get to the United States.

Nancy Morales, the 33-year-old sister of the slain man, took over. Her pants still damp from wading into the sea with two bunches of flowers early Saturday morning, the onetime hairdresser and secretary said her family — in its own small way — gave its own echo to the U.S. flotilla.

At 9:45 a.m., the family rode to one of Havana's eastern beaches, popularly known as Playa del Chivo, in front of the Naval Hospital.

As dozens of Cubans watched from rooftop terraces, the family solemnly approached the water. Nancy Morales carried two garlands of pink buds.

Wading into the sea

She waded into the sea, clutching a tiny tissue-paper Bible, then recited the 23rd Psalm, long ago committed to memory by all those in their devout Baptist household. "The Lord is my shepherd . . ."

With so many eyes upon her, Morales said her modest commemoration of a beloved younger brother was the best she could do.

"I achieved my goal. I deliv-

preferred to toss her flowers from the Malecon. Havana's fabled seawall and the scene of such rituals in the past. But "we've received indirect threats" against drawing too much attention, she said.

Since the news of Pablo Morales' death, family members have sequestered themselves in their ramshackle home in the Luyano neighborhood.

They have stopped listening to the government-sanctioned news, relying instead on phone calls from Miami to inform themselves.

"I don't want to hear the news. All they talk about is 'terrorism' and 'piracy,' and I know my brother was not involved in that," Morales said. "This is a crime that cannot remain unpunished."

He sought a better life

Morales said her brother was just another Cuban who sought a better life in the United States. In August 1992, he floated off in a makeshift raft for Florida. He was rescued at sea by Brothers to the Rescue, who spotted him from a plane much like the craft shot down last Saturday.

"Brothers to the Rescue saved his life," his sister said. "He started to work with them out of gratitude."

Pablo Morales, 29, also took a job as a driver and salesman for a refrigerator repair firm in Miami. Instantly, he became the principal provider for his family here on the island.

Nancy Morales, a single mother with a 12-year-old son, said the family's economic situation is precarious. She hasn't had work in over a month. Her other brother draws a meager salary in the Merchant Marine.

They feel exposed.

U.S. officials are reviewing their petition to immigrate. Their closest U.S. relative, a cousin, Rafael Morales, has pledged to help them get on their feet in Miami.

Morales said the family's last contact with her brother was Feb. 22, one day before the incident. He called to say he was planning to take surplus toys to refugees in Nassau with Brothers to the Rescue.

After that, the calls were all bad news.

Eva Librada Barbos, a shrunken figure in black, wants to say something. She crosses one withered wrist with another, and looks imploringly. Why wasn't her son merely forced down and taken prisoner?

"Because they're assassins, criminals," her daughter shot back. "There's no other word to describe it."

S e p s east t e pain

By MANNY GARCIA
And GAIL EPSTEIN
Herald Staff Writers

Enveloped in the wild applause of more than 60,000 supporters — most of them total strangers — Hady Hernandez shook with emotion as she remembered Pablo Morales, a week ago simply her boyfriend, but on Saturday night much more.

He was one of the four fallen pilots whose deaths inspired a frenzied display of solidarity in the Orange Bowl.

"I can't even begin to express how Pablo would feel on this day," Hernandez said, her voice breaking. "He's a hero, is all I can say. He's a hero."

The names of all four pilots were evoked with similar respect and love throughout the three-hour ceremony: Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena, Armando Alejandro Jr. As day turned to night, the losses suffered by all four families became a community loss as well.

"Today is not about groups or organization," said Felix Fernandez, 59. "It's about the four boys who died for a free Cuba."

Said her cousin, Cristina Gonzalez, 20, "This helps ease the pain, too."

Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, spoke with indignation of the man responsible for the deaths. Each time she said the Fidel Castro, the crowd responded with boos.

"Of this you may be sure: When the government of Fidel Castro tries to shift the blame of this tragedy to the victims, America will tell the truth," she said.

"When the government of Fidel Castro tries — as he has — to deny that what he did was murder, America will tell the truth."

"When the government of Fidel Castro tries — as he has — to twist and distort the rules by which all civilized people must live, America will tell the truth."

Armando Alejandro Sr. urged the crowd to remember that Cuba has lost many more than

four young men.

"Today we remember the thousands of brothers who have been executed, the others who have fallen in clandestine operations. . . . Remember the same brothers who lost their lives in the straits," he said.

At 6:01 p.m., two Brothers to the Rescue planes made three passes over the stadium. People stood and cheered.

Among those clapping: Ana Roque, wife of Juan Pablo Roque, a suspected spy for the Cuban government who infiltrated Brothers to the Rescue.

The ceremony ended with a procession of four brown steeds — riderless in honor of the four downed pilots. A Cuban flag fluttered from the lead horse. About 200 Cuban-American women dressed in black followed, symbolizing Cuban mothers who have lost a child.

A drum roll played for 10 minutes until they cleared the field.

The crowd went silent.

At midfield, Sgt. Lawrence S.



MARCE CONN BAND / Herald Staff

A COMMUNITY'S LOSS: At the top of the Orange Bowl, Betty Fareldo waves a dove of peace attached to the Cuban flag, while Yvette Pedraja waves the American flag as the Mass begins.



MIMI VALLBONA / Herald Staff

SOLIDARITY: Archbishop John Favarola greets Armando Alejandro Sr., father of a downed pilot. In the middle is Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Morse, a bugler from the 13th Army Band with the Florida National Guard, played taps.

Luis Hernandez, brother of Hady Hernandez, vowed that Morales' death won't be in

vain.

"His blood refreshed our souls," Luis Hernandez said. "I feel revitalized, reborn to fight for a free Cuba. That is what Pablo wanted most."



From above, pilots pay homage to fallen fliers

By ELAINE DE VALLE
Herald Staff Writer

Eighteen small civilian planes lifted into a wet, gray sky Saturday afternoon as hundreds of supporters at Opa-locka airport cheered, honked their horns, waved flags and flashed their car lights.

Destination: the Florida Straits, where four Brothers to the Rescue flyers were gunned down by Cuban MiGs a week earlier.

The funeral flight ended about 17 miles north of Cuba, where pilots — from the Brothers group, Rasters Rescue Legion and the Cuban-American Pilots Association — circled in what they call a "racetrack formation" for about half an hour.



Basulto

Father Francisco Santana of Ermita De La Caridad Catholic Church, flying in the lead plane piloted by Brothers founder Jose Basulto, said a eulogy while one by one, pilots and their passengers tossed flowers into the sea.

Ray Martin, a Brothers pilot, flew in from Tampa for the memorial service. He was still emotional after he touched ground.

"I got goose bumps," said Martin, who flew 700 feet above the watery graves of his friends, which were marked by the U.S. Coast Guard.

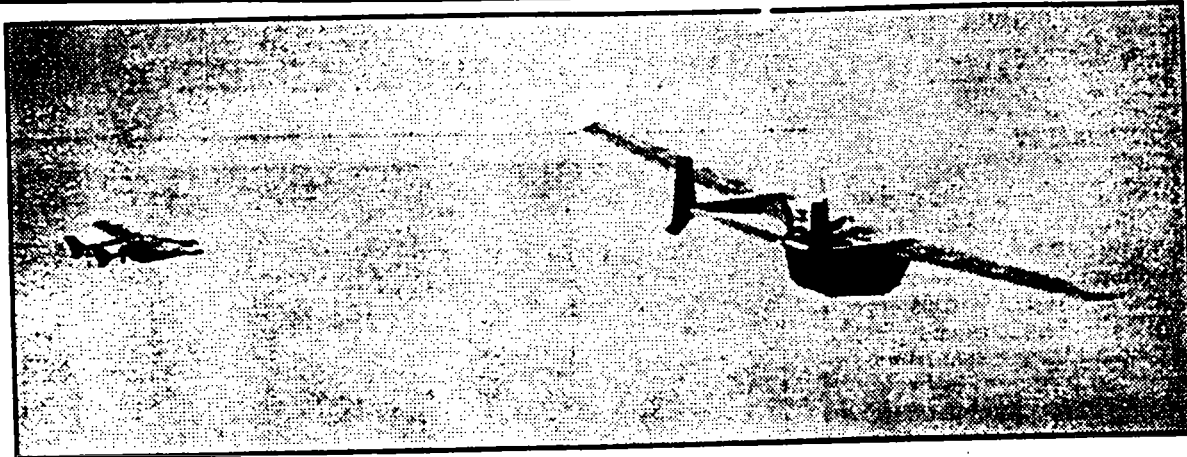
"I had my own little prayer," he said. "I was busy watching the planes to the side, but I could see the flowers falling from our plane. They looked good. It was beautiful."

Basulto and Brothers' co-founder Billy Schuss led the formation. After returning, they gave a quick press conference and were rushed to the Orange Bowl, escorted by police cars.

"The mission was hard," Basulto said. "We had very bad weather. But it was worth it. I'm feeling a great sense of relief."

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CUBA CRISIS



PETER ANDREW BOSCH / Herald Staff

FLY OVER: Planes accompany the flotilla Saturday afternoon. The flight ended about 17 miles north of Cuba, where pilots circled in a 'racetrack formation' for about half an hour.

Also in Basulto's plane was Orlando Gutierrez of El Directorio Revolucionario Democrático Cubano, carrying flowers and a framed photograph of his friend Mario de la Peña, one of the fallen pilots.

"I want to tell Mario that the struggle against injustice will go on," he said.

Ana Roque, wife of alleged Cuban spy Juan Pablo Roque, came to the airport. Through tears, she expressed her allegiance to the group and pinned a black ribbon on Basulto's shirt.

"Although my husband has departed, I am with them 100 percent," Roque said of the volunteer pilots. "I believe in their mission and I believe in a free Cuba."

Mayte Greco, 36, the only female pilot in the procession, said it was the only way for her and the others to bury their buddies.

After returning, Greco was visibly moved.

"If the guys were up there watching us, they had big smiles on their faces," she said. "All their friends were out here."

order to down planes

By CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS
Herald Staff Writer

HAVANA — Cuban President Fidel Castro has taken responsibility for the decision to shoot down two unarmed civilian aircraft and suggested that forcing them to land might have imperiled Cuban fighter planes.

In an interview with Time magazine released Saturday, Castro said he and his military chiefs met after exile planes made two incursions into Cuban airspace in January. He said they concluded it "cannot happen again."

"It was so humiliating," the Cuban leader told Time. "The U.S. would not have tolerated it if Washington's airspace had been violated by small airplanes."

In July and Jan. 9 and 13, the founder of Brothers to the Rescue, Jose Basulto, overflew Havana and dropped leaflets calling for Castro's overthrow.

After conferring with his brother, Raul Castro, the armed forces commander, and the Joint

PLEASE SEE CASTRO, 23A

CASTRO, FROM 1A

Chiefs of Staff, Castro said, "We gave the order to the head of the Air Force. On Saturday [Brothers' planes] came twice. The San Antonio air base was on high alert. On the third pass, they scrambled and did their job. They shot the planes down. They are professionals. They did what they believe is the right thing. These are all people we trust, but I take responsibility for what happened."

Castro's remarks were his first public statements on the incident.

As an exile flotilla braved rough seas Saturday to commemorate the fallen pilots, ordinary residents here reacted with only mild interest and reflected scant knowledge of the boaters' intent.



Cuban media downplayed the flotilla, focusing news accounts throughout the day on more mundane matters of agricultural production and garbage collection.

But Cuba's independent journalists — in addition to a vast group of foreign journalists — troled Havana for reactions and even took to sea to witness the flotilla's arrival.

Cuban boats at sea

The Havana government made available a naval vessel to observe the flotilla from Cuban waters. Early Saturday, five Cuban patrol boats — more than normally seen off Havana's harbor — plied the seas as escorts.

Virtually all Cubans inter-

soap are viewed as luxuries and even sugar is sometimes scarce.

Castro, in the interview, defended his hard-line position, even though it fortified the drive in the U.S. Congress to approve sweeping new sanctions against his government.

'Incident would be exploited'

"We realized the incident would be exploited as an issue between Cuba and the U.S. and would become an issue in the American presidential election," he said.

Cuban officials said privately they feared that exile provocations would get even bolder — if unanswered — and push Clinton to the brink of war in politically crucial weeks prior to the November elections.

But Castro also disclosed that the effort by a dissident coalition, Concilio Cubano, to hold its first meeting last week had also strained authorities' patience.

"In addition to these flights, there was also interference by the U.S. Interests Section in our internal affairs," Castro said. "What these people are doing was intolerable. They were giving money and paying the bills of dissidents."

The criticism was apparently directed at U.S. diplomats here who have chronicled a crack-down against dissidents — including 150 cases of arrests or harassment in recent weeks — and attended meetings the dissidents held with visiting U.S. lawmakers and others.

Officials at the U.S. mission have been extraordinarily tight-lipped throughout the current crisis.

But one Western diplomat who monitors dissident activity denounced such criticism as an effort to portray legitimate homegrown opponents as foreign puppets.

"The idea that Concilio was born and bred in the United States is absurd," the diplomat said. "And the Cubans know it. They've searched [the dissidents'] homes and read all their documents, so they know it."

Castro, pressed as to why he did not merely force down the exile planes last week, indicated that it would have placed the MiG fighters at risk.

"It is very difficult," he said. "We have tried it with narco-traffickers and lost some of our planes."

Castro also suggested that some exiles were trying to make political trouble for President Clinton. Asked if he ever thought of phoning Clinton, Castro paused and said: "I have never talked to any president of the United States. The exiles would murder Clinton if they found out he was talking to me."

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THE NEW CUBA CRISIS



F



MUR VALLEBONA / Herald Staff

SHARED PAIN: Members of Carlos Costa's family hold each other during a prayer for the downed pilots. From left: Melisa

Mendez, Mirta Mendez, Mirta Costa, the pilot's mother, Michael Mendez, 16, and Andrew Mendez, 10.

DOWNED



**ARMANDO
ALEJANDRE JR.**

Though not a pilot, Armando Alejandro Jr., 45, was active in Brothers to the Rescue and had gone on several trips to bring food and supplies to Cuban refugees in the Bahamas.

Alejandro had worked as a construction manager for Dade County, most recently as a transit cost estimator for the county's Department of Transportation. He was a Vietnam veteran.



CARLOS COSTA

Carlos Costa, 29, was born in Miami and graduated from Pace High School in 1984.

Costa had been active with Brothers to the Rescue for more than three years, flying missions, answering phones and scheduling flights.

He was single and lived with his parents, Osvaldo and Mirta Costa, in Northwest Dade.



PABLO MORALES

Pablo Morales, 29, fled Cuba in 1992. His raft was spotted by a Brothers to the Rescue crew and he later joined the group to watch for other rafters while training for his pilot's license.

Morales left family back in Cuba — a brother, sister, parents and a niece — and was often homesick.



MARIO DE LA PEÑA

Mario de la Peña, 24, was born in New Jersey, the son of Cuban immigrants, and grew up in Miami.

Studying to get his commercial pilot's license and working as an intern for American Airlines, de la Peña joined some of the Brothers' riskier missions, including the flyover to Havana last year to drop fliers.

He lived with his parents in South Miami.



A time for uniting via land, sea, air



MURR VALLBONA / Herald Staff

**Bishop: 'Lord, don't
allow death to devour
the children of Cuba'**

- HOMAGE FROM THE AIR, 22A
- DIFFICULT RIDE AT SEA, 22A
- A VICTIM'S FAMILY IN CUBA, 23A
- EMOTION IN THE ORANGE BOWL, 23A

By JOHN LANTIGUA, GAIL EPSTEIN
And MARTIN MERZER
Herald Staff Writers

By air, they defied dangerous winds and dropped red roses. By sea, they endured 10-foot waves and offered white carnations. By land, they arrived in great tides and they carried colorful flags and black balloons, their hopes and their sorrow.

South Florida's Cuban exiles, often divided over doctrine and tactics, united Saturday in grief and prayer. They flew over the Straits of Florida. They navigated turbulent waters. They flocked to an Orange Bowl veiled by mournful skies, illuminated with humanity.

And through this — their presence, their solemnity and their tenacity — they protested Cuba's destruction of two unarmed planes. They honored the memories of four fliers for Brothers to the Rescue, a group whose name symbolized the spirit of the day.

"Lord, don't allow death to devour the children of Cuba," Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman told more than 60,000 people during a Saturday evening ecumenical service at the Orange Bowl. "Lord, bless the nation that shelters us."

Said Madeleine Albright, the tough-talking U.S. ambassador to the United Nations:

"There is anguish in our hearts, but let us not allow that anguish to harden our hearts. America will protect its citizens in international waters and international skies."

That was the case Saturday. It was, in every way, a day of peace, unhampered by Cuban warplanes,

aves of American and Cuban flags flutter at the Orange Bowl, where more than 60,000 people gathered.

PLEASE SEE C 1, 22A

inhibited but not ruined by miserable weather.

The exile boats abbreviated their voyage. Some planes remained grounded. A few people undoubtedly stayed home.

But for the most part, the day of prayer and protest proceeded as planned. The exiles and their supporters overcame rain, wind and high seas — and they expressed their torment and their resolve.

"Brothers to the Rescue will not disband," said Brothers founder Jose Basulto, who flew one of two planes that buzzed the Orange Bowl, electrifying the crowd there. "We have more planes. We have more pilots."

Down in the Straits of Florida, halfway between Key West and Cuba, short of their goal but close enough, the most hardy participants in a storm-tossed flotilla conducted a memorial service for the lost fliers.

Mourners tossed floral wreaths into the sea. They said a prayer. They hugged.

And as their boats bobbed in the waves, flotilla leader Ramon Saul Sanchez radioed a message to the crew of the Coast Guard cutter Valiant. There, only 30 feet away, 75 crewmen lined up on deck, heads lowered in respect.

Sanchez told them: "You are the heart of the American people."

The Valiant and other armed Coast Guard vessels escorted the private boats throughout the day. A squadron of F-15s and F-16s bristled on alert as 18 private planes oscillated through heavy winds. Three U.S. warships cruised nearby. Police stood ready at the Orange Bowl.

No Cuban military encounters

But no Cuban MiGs or gunboats materialized out of the clouds or mist. No shots were fired across any bows, Cuban or Cuban American. No warplanes were scrambled, no arrests required.

It was not a day for that. It was a day for this:

Cruz Iturbe, huddled at the Orange Bowl in a yellow rain slicker, holding a Cuban flag and an American flag, remembering the way it was in Cuba and the way it is in America.

"I was very young when I came to this country and I came for freedom of speech," said Iturbe, 34. "My father was in jail. My mother had to work in the camps. That's why we're here. I think we all have to fight for something we believe in."

It was a day for Armando Alejandro Sr. to tell the world about Armando Alejandro Jr., his son and namesake, dead at 45 in an incident that sparked a new U.S.-Cuban crisis. The others killed in the MiG attack: Carlos Costa, 29; Mario de la Pena, 24; Pablo Morales, 29.

"May the Lord be merciful to their souls as He takes them in His arms," said Alejandro Sr., addressing God and profoundly touching the crowd at the Orange Bowl.

Crowd rises for families

When he and the victims' other relatives entered the stadium, the crowd rose as one.

¡Libertad! ¡Libertad!

And it was a day for Sylvia Iriondo, aboard the only plane that survived the attack by Cuban MiGs a week ago Saturday, to speak about the young lives lost that day. Iriondo knows something about young people. She formed a group called Mothers Against Repression.

"This is a tribute to these young men who so unselfishly gave the most precious thing they had — their lives," she said. "And we're renewing our commitment to continue, inspired by their example."

Like many people, she was dressed in black — in her case, a black shirt, black pants, black shoes, even black earrings. But she also wore a yellow ribbon. A symbol of hope for the future, she said.

Faith in a better future for Cuba and Cubans suffused a day that could have been ruined — but wasn't — by a weather front that barreled through South Florida.

People on the docks

Thirty-five boats left Key West at sunrise Saturday, and even that number could not accommodate everyone. Scores of people were left behind on the dock.

Seven boats soon split from the pack, heading to a spot 10 miles south of Key West where a Miami man, Lazaro Gutierrez, died when a boat sank during last September's flotilla. There, the group dropped a wreath in his honor.

The rest of the boats ploughed south through ever-rising seas, aiming for a spot 21 miles northwest of Havana, a spot now called "Point Brother." It is the

region where the two planes were shot down.

No match for the 10-foot waves, at least nine small boats quickly returned to safe harbor in Key West. Others stopped elsewhere, conducting impromptu services.

But 14 pressed on, their occupants writhed with seasickness, nevertheless determined to lurch close to Point Brother.

A ceremony at sea

When they advanced as far as they could, they gathered around a 50-foot fishing vessel that served as the flotilla's lead ship. Sanchez, the organizer, spoke over the radio so he could be heard by those aboard other vessels.

"The day will come when the dream of freedom of the Cuban people will be fulfilled," he said, "so we won't have to come to the high seas to mourn brutally assassinated young men."

Then, the exiles said a prayer and sang the Cuban national anthem. And they watched as the flowers they tossed into the sea were carried by the current, towards the north, away from

Fidel Castro.

The inclement weather also grounded a few of the planes poised to fly south from Opa-locka Airport, but 18 took off anyway. One was forced to return; the others reached Point Brother.

There, they flew over the spot for more than 30 minutes, dropping flowers and remembering their lost Brothers.

Circling the Orange Bowl

Later, Basulto's plane and one piloted by Brothers co-founder Billy Schuss circled the Orange Bowl, around and around, in tribute rather than triumph. The crowd rose and cheered: *¡Cuba Libre!*

Multi-colored waves of American and Cuban flags fluttered in gusts that whipped the Orange Bowl, but black balloons and black ribbons rendered the eve-

ning more somber than festive.

Most people seemed to arrive in groups — family members and friends spanning all generations.

One such person was Danays Garcia, who arrived from Cuba 10 years ago. She is only 18 years old, but she knows many things. This is what she said:

"I have seen the pain in my grandparents' faces and their suffering. I'm here because I feel I have to be here. I owe it to my grandparents and I owe it to Brothers to the Rescue."

"I know what it's like to live in Cuba."

"And I know what it's like to be free."

Herald staff writers Susana Belido, Cynthia Corzo, Elaine de Valle, Manny Garcia, Donna Gehrke, Rick Jervis, Nancy Klingener, Phil Long, Renato Perez and Barry Yelvington contributed to this report.

ORANGE BOWL, DE 1A

Un grupo de 60 nicaragüenses también acudió al estadio para adherirse al sentir del exilio cubano.

"Hemos venido porque la causa de los cubanos es igual que la de los nicaragüenses", manifestó Carlos Gaitán, que asistió acompañado de su hijo, Lester, de 12 años.

Los familiares de las víctimas caminaron a todo lo largo del campo y el público los recibió con aplausos.

"Estamos contigo", gritó Mercy del Valle desde una grada a Mirta Costa, madre de Carlos Costa.

Los retratos de las víctimas presidían la tribuna, adornada con coronas de flores que formaban la bandera cubana y estadounidense.

Angel Calzadilla, vocero del Departamento de Policía de Miami, estimó una participación de más de 60,000 personas.

"Si en la parte de abajo caben cerca de 45,000 y está repleto, y en la parte de arriba unos 30,000 y está casi lleno, cualquiera puede dar un estimado", explicó Calzadilla.

Artistas, políticos, congresistas, figuras de las principales organizaciones del exilio y líderes de la comunidad unieron su voz en un solo grito.

"Vine a apoyar a los familiares de las víctimas", dijo la cantante cubanoamericana Gloria Estefan, junto a su esposo Emilio y su hijo, vestida de negro. "Ellos no murieron en vano y este crimen

tiene que ser denunciado".

Unos rezaban, otros pedían paz, otros guerra, otros el bloqueo. Todos, libertad.

"Fidel Castro no entiende por vías diplomáticas", dijo Andrés Nazario Sargén, presidente del grupo paramilitar Alpha 66, que participó acompañado de un centenar de sus miembros vestidos de camuflaje. "Sólo a través de la acción bélica vamos a derrotar al tirano".

La tragedia trascendió las fronteras étnicas. La comunidad cubana no estuvo sola el sábado.

"He venido a compartir el dolor por esta tragedia de nuestra comunidad", dijo el fiscal federal Kendall Coffey, que permaneció hasta el final del evento apoyado por gran número de organizaciones de exiliados.

Junto al simbolismo patriótico hubo interpretaciones sobre significado político del derribo de las dos avionetas y el derramamiento de sangre inocente.

"Esto ha servido para que haya una reconciliación del exilio con Clinton", dijo Jorge Mas Canosa, presidente de la Fundación Nacional Cubanoamericana. "Ahora debemos trabajar juntos con la administración en una estrategia para poner en práctica una política que promueva la libertad de Cuba".

El acto religioso ecuménico comenzó con un marcial solo de trompeta de Alfredo de la Rosa, director de la banda de la escuela secundaria South Miami, seguido de un recital de la Coral Cubana, bajo la dirección de Carmen Riera.

Silvia Iriondo, de Madres Ante la Represión por Cuba, tripulante de la única avioneta que sobrevivió al ataque de los MiG cubanos, fue la moderadora del evento.

"Ellos nos han señalado con el ejemplo de sus vidas que el camino de la libertad está en la isla, en el suelo de la patria", dijo Iriondo.

Miembros de la Guardia Nacional residentes en Hialeah y Miami desfilaron en el estadio junto a Christian Navarrete, de 16 años, estudiante de la Escuela de Belén, que portaba una bandera cubana.

Cuando se anunció la entrada de Madeleine Albright, embajadora de Estados Unidos ante Naciones Unidas, los aplausos fueron estruendosos. Los gritos de "¡Bloqueo!" sobrepasaron a los de "¡Libertad!".

Albright es admirada por los exiliados cubanos por su contundente condena del derribo de las avionetas esta semana ante el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas.

"Cuando Castro echa la culpa a las víctimas, Estados Unidos dirá la verdad; cuando diga que no fue asesinato, Estados Unidos dirá la verdad, y por la verdad ha sido condenado en la corte de la opinión pública mundial por sus crímenes", dijo Albright.

Albright hizo referencia en su intervención a la entrada de los soviéticos en Praga después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

"Recuerdo cuando era niña, los tanques rusos, dirigidos por Josef Stalin, aplastando a Che-

coslovaquia", dijo Albright. "Pero también recuerdo de adulta, cuando Vaclav Havel, un disidente, juró por la presidencia de ese país".

A las 6:30 p.m., los discursos se interrumpieron. Fue el momento más dramático. Dos avionetas de Hermanos al Rescate, atravesaron el cielo como pájaros azules, y la multitud los recibió con una ovación de varios minutos. En una de las avionetas iba José Basulto, presidente de Hermanos al Rescate, y regresaban de un homenaje a los caídos, tres horas antes, en el Estrecho de la Florida.

"Son nuestros Hermanos al Rescate que vienen de honrar a nuestros mártires en el mar donde fueron asesinados", anunció Iriondo mientras la multitud gritaba, aplaudía y ondeaba las banderas desde todos los rincones.

"Son mis héroes", dijo Elena Valdivieso, de 18 años. "Nací aquí, pero soy cubana y siento tanto por Cuba como por este país".

Después de dar las gracias y recordar a todos los mártires de Cuba, Armando Alejandro, padre, habló en representación de las familias de los cuatro activistas y de la comunidad cubana: "Hemos sido consecuentes con la estrofa de nuestro himno: 'Morir por la patria es vivir'".

Después de entrar en olor de multitudes en medio del acto religioso, Basulto hizo una breve intervención en la que pasó lista por los cuatro hermanos ausentes y después se dirigió a Albright.

"La señora Albright, que le diga a la administración que nosotros los cubanos nos bastamos solos, que no queremos sangre de norteamericanos en Cuba, que con la nuestra basta", dijo Basulto. "Sólo pedimos que se respete nuestro derecho a ser libres".

Con rostros emocionados y fervor a flor de piel, los asistentes escucharon a monseñor Agustín Román, obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Miami.

"Señor, ten en tu corazón a lo que hoy luchan en Cuba agrupados en el Concilio Cubano", dijo Román durante la oración por las almas de las víctimas a quienes calificó de mártires.

Román concluyó la oración pidiendo a Dios que apresure el día del regreso a Cuba y de la liberación.

"Apresúralo, porque la sobe-
bia de un hombre hace que nuestro pueblo agonice", dijo.
Entre las madres enlutadas que desfilaron en la procesión de clausura estaba Janet Rivero, amiga de Mario de la Peña.

"Siento un gran dolor, pero también orgullo, porque diere su vida por un motivo digno nos están dando un ejemplo nosotros y un mensaje a Cuba que necesita saber que somos sus hermanos y que juntos vamos a lograr una patria libre", dijo Rivero, de 20 años.

Al final de la multitudinaria congregación, cuatro caballos sin jinete, símbolos de las cuatro vidas perdidas, encabezaron la procesión.