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Cuba - Public (Press Stmnts, Q&A)

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

FACT SHEET -- CUBA

I. POLICY TOWARDS CUBA

- The goal of the US is to promote a peaceful, rapid transition to democracy in Cuba.
- US policy towards Cuba is based on the Cuban Democracy Act which has bipartisan support. The Act stipulates that we will maintain sanctions as long as Castro refuses to move towards democracy and greater respect for human rights.
- The Act states that we are prepared to reduce sanctions in a carefully calibrated way in response to positive developments in Cuba. We have not seen such progress.

II. MIGRATION CRISIS

- The migration crisis was provoked by Castro's decision to no longer prevent Cubans from taking to the seas in unsafe vessels.
- As a result, more than 32,000 Cubans were picked up at sea and are now under U.S. protection at Guantanamo and in Panama.
- On August 19, the President announced that the US would rescue Cubans at sea and take them to a safehaven at Guantanamo Bay. Migrants from Cuba would not be allowed to enter the US.
- The President also announced a series of actions to expand the flow of information to the people of Cuba and to limit the ability of the Cuban government to accumulate foreign exchange.
- The agreement reached on September 9 with the government of Cuba put an end to the massive outflow of Cuban rafters.
- The agreement also provides for the legal migration into the U.S. of at least 20,000 Cubans per year. The agreement has put an end to irregular departures and promoted orderly, safe and legal migration.

III. CUBANS IN SAFEHAVENS

- There currently are roughly 22,000 Cubans at Guantanamo and roughly 8,000 in Panama.
- The President has taken a series of humanitarian steps relating to Cubans in safehavens. The Attorney General is paroling into the U.S. seriously ill persons who cannot adequately be cared for in the camps, unaccompanied young children, and migrants over 70.

IV. LAWSUIT

-- In response to a lawsuit filed by a group of Cuban-Americans, a federal court in Florida has entered a temporary restraining order barring the US from returning any Cuban from Guantanamo or Panama until the court has had time to address the claim that they are being forcibly sent back. The hearing is scheduled for October 26, at 1:00 P.M.

-- A plane was scheduled to return 23 Cuban volunteers on October 25, but was prevented from doing so pending the hearing.

-- US policy is unambiguous: No Cuban currently at Guantanamo or in Panama should be either forced or encouraged to return. All Cubans are given the opportunity to choose to stay under U.S. protection.

-- If a Cuban asks to go home, our policy is to permit his or her return. We do not wish to hold Cubans against their will.

-- To date, 42 Cubans have returned. All have done so voluntarily. All 23 scheduled to depart had expressed a strong desire to go home. [SEE ATTACHED DECLARATION - Tab A]

-- The lawsuit charges that inhumane camp conditions indirectly coerce Cuban migrants into returning home.

-- The USG has taken extraordinary steps to provide for all migrants in safehavens, and will continue to do so. [SEE ATTACHED FACT SHEET - Tab B]

-- The lawsuit also charges that we have denied the lawyers access to the safehavens.

-- Although the priority was providing for the migrants' immediate needs, authorities in the safehavens have tried to facilitate visits to the camps. Representatives of various interested non-governmental organizations include Amnesty International, the US Committee for Refugees, the US Catholic Conference, and a group of Cuban-American lawyers) have been given access to the camps at Guantanamo Bay.

-- On October 20, 1994, four days before the lawsuit was filed, officials of the USG informed the attorneys by telephone that they would be allowed to meet with Cuban migrants in safehavens.

-- This position was confirmed in writing in a letter dated October 24 [SEE ATTACHED LETTER - Tab C].

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 14, 1994

Statement by the Press Secretary

The President today announced a series of immediate humanitarian steps relating to Cubans in safehavens in Guantanamo and Panama.

First, the Attorney General will parole into the United States chronically ill persons and their caregivers who cannot be adequately cared for in the camps.

Second, she will parole into the United States unaccompanied young children now in the safe havens.

Third, she will parole into the United States migrants over 70.

In each case, we will ensure that those paroled in have appropriate sponsors.

Fourth, the Administration will conduct a review of the status of all children in the camps.

Fifth, we have launched a major effort to persuade other countries to accept some of the Cuban migrants.

Sixth, although much remains to be done, significant improvements have been made in the camps including providing better food, inaugurating mail and telephone service, and improving sanitary conditions. Attached is a fact sheet showing the time table for improvements.

The administration shares the deep concern of the Cuban-American community for the well-being of all the Cubans in safehavens. The root cause of these problems is in Cuba. The administration is dedicated to pursuing policies which will lead to a rapid and peaceful movement to democracy in Cuba.

#

FACT SHEET

IMPROVEMENTS AT GUANTANAMO

There are five tiers of improvement categories:

- I. Infrastructure/facilities
- II. Food/clothing/medicine
- III. Personal communications
- IV. Education/recreation
- V. Other/administrative

INFRASTRUCTURE/FACILITIES

Water: Running water is now available in all Haitian and Cuban camps. Water has always been available for consumption, but construction of the last piping system for running water was completed on 9 October. Each migrant is provided safe drinking water and sufficient water for daily hygiene.

Tents: All migrants have shelter, but dust is still a problem in the Cuban camps. As some migrants leave, camp officials can close some camps and build hard stands for other tents going up. The Haitian camps are located on hard surfaces (runways) and dust is not as bad in this location. Many steps have been taken to reduce dust. One measure that has had some success is the spreading of a soil stabilizer, another measure has been to plant surrounding ground cover. These are temporary measures until all tents are hardened to include concrete or wooden flooring. Projected completion of the hardening project is 15 November.

Sanitation facilities: There is currently one latrine for every 30 migrants. Cleaning is now done once every three days; by October 24 cleaning will be done once every day. Plans are now being developed to have permanent latrine facilities. The construction of sewer piping systems is slowed by the small geographic area and by

limited treatment capacity. Follow-on plans include expanding existing treatment facilities.

Camp areas: Each camp has an area for recreation. Half-court basketball and volleyball courts are being constructed, projected completion 24 October. Additionally, baseball diamonds and soccer fields are being built for common use.

FOOD/CLOTHING/MEDICINE

Milk: A preliminary supply of milk has been provided along with specialized milk for babies with digestive problems (*Infamil* with Iron, *Similac*). Follow-on supplies will be provided and sustained.

Food: Every effort is being made to develop a varied menu. There are now enough food stocks to allow the announcement of 2-day menus. Two new kitchens have been built. Each migrant receives 2 hot meals and one MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) per day. Migrants take part in food preparation and as a result of greater food stocks the resulting menu has become more Cuban and Haitian friendly. Examples include the Haitian fare *Paella* and a Cuban recipe for *Arroz con Pollo* on Sundays.

Clothing: Thanks to the efforts of many government and non-government organizations each migrant has spare clothing and shoes and ball-type caps for those that need sun-protection during the day. Over 35,000 pairs of shoes were purchased for the migrants and all have been distributed.

Medicine: There have been no outbreaks/illnesses of any serious nature within the last month. Hygiene is improving daily and preventive care is being developed by camp doctors. There are estimates of up to 250 pregnant women in the camps. Pre-natal and post-natal facilities are being built to assist new and expectant mothers with the care and feeding of their children. Special milk/formula and other infant needs are being stocked.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mail: Limited postcard service has been available through the American Red Cross. A DoD/US Postal Service team traveled to Guantanamo last week to arrange regular letter service to begin in October. Initial service will include only

letter/post card mail. By early November details of package delivery will be announced.

Phones: 95 phone lines have been established solely for use by Cuban and Haitian migrants. All phones are operational.

EDUCATION/RECREATION

Educational facilities/supplies: Primary education is currently provided through the 6th grade level. Supplies for crayons, notebooks and school books in Spanish and Creole were provided with DoD funds.

Newspaper Deliveries: Daily newspaper delivery service should begin on 20 Oct.

Radio Service: There were over 1000 radios supplied to the migrants in September and more are being scheduled for delivery. Additionally, the radios are able to pick up *Radio Marti* during the evening hours and DoD has been producing additional broadcasts through a temporary station called *Radio Esperanza*.

Other Media: Camp leaders are also given the opportunity to produce their own print media for the camps.

Recreation: The Cubans have asked for basketball areas and 6 are now being constructed, expected completion is 20 October 94. Each camp will have a recreation tent by 12 Oct. Other facilities are being planned and constructed that include baseball diamonds and soccer fields, as previously mentioned. Special activities for children are also being implemented. Currently, there is a program to transport children and their parents or their caregivers to playground areas around the base. More playground facilities are being built within the family camps for greater access. Recreation tents are being stocked with supplies of games, cards, dominos and other related materials.

OTHER

Administrative: Mr. Guarione Diaz, a Cuban-American and President of the Cuban American National Council, was appointed Ombudsman to help assist in the U.S. Government's effort to improve camp conditions. He has been instrumental in coordinating relief activities and supplies from the Cuban-American population.

Camp Leadership for the Migrants: Each camp has selected a small group of camp leaders and representatives to voice their concerns over the conditions in the camps. The leaders' recommendations are followed as much as practical. Camp leaders hold regular meetings with migrants in their areas and during these forums give updates from governmental agencies.

Cigarettes: Small shipments of cigarettes have been arriving in Guantanamo during the last two weeks. Other priority items such as milk for babies, clothes, shoes and other food stocks were delivered first. The Administration is working with the Cuban-American community in Miami for a large donation of cigarettes which DOD will arrange to have transported and distributed in the camps.

Camp Visits: Guantanamo has been visited by the Archdiocese of Miami, scores of press, US government officials, non-governmental organizations, and many others in an effort to assist migrants. Information will be released in November about how private citizens can arrange visits to Guantanamo. The first priority is to get those assigned duty to help the migrants.

Donated Goods/Services: The US Government welcomes all donations of goods and services for the migrants in Guantanamo. The State Department has contracted the services of World Relief to accept and distribute donated goods to the migrants.

To Donate Goods, contact: Peggy Gilbert, World Relief, (914) 268-4135.

To Donate Services, contact: Mr. Guarione Diaz, Ombudsman for Cubans at the Camps, (305) 642-3484.

Asylum given to hundreds of rafters

Elderly, young and sick refugees to win freedom

By CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS
And MIRTA OJITO
Herald Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration, under strong pressure from Cuban Americans, announced Friday that it will grant refuge to a few hundred elderly, sick and child refugees now detained in camps at Guantanamo and in Panama.

No specific figure was given, although it is estimated that fewer than 500 will be admitted from the 29,000 Cubans at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and 6,000 at a U.S. military base in Panama.

But more might be coming. The White House announcement noted it will conduct a review of the status of all children in the camps — estimated at more than 3,000 — saying they would also be likely candidates for parole.

Ecstatic Cubans hailed the decision.

"This is the beginning of the end of this nightmare," said Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation. "We are on the right

CLINTON'S PATH EASED

■ President Clinton's decision to release some Cubans from detention camps eases fear of demonstrations during his Miami visit tonight, 20A.

A BOOST FOR MAS?

■ The U.S. policy shift on asylum for rafters could boost support for Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, 20A.

track."

The new policy marks a shift in course for President Clinton, who sought to "demagnetize" the United States as a destination during the exodus of Cuban boat people last summer. Clinton insisted in August that no Cubans taken into U.S. custody at sea would ever be granted entry into this country.

But Clinton relented in the face

PLEASE SEE GUANTANAMO, 20A

Ally
↪ fast time clock

A. Humm
↪ timing

Peter Shalvey

4x6 cards

For Humm

205,7500

of increasing requests by Cuban Americans to accept the most vulnerable of the refugees.

Effective immediately, children without parents, people above the age of 70 and those who are gravely ill, as well as care-givers identified by base doctors, are all approved to come to the United States under paroles issued by Attorney General Janet Reno.

"There's a general recognition that these are humanitarian cases," said Michael Skol, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. "They're the sick, the very young and the very old. You can't keep these people locked up."

Up to 500 expected

Richard Nuccio, a State Department official who is serving as a liaison to Miami's Cuban community, estimated that the total number would not exceed 500.

U.S. military officers at the Guantanamo base have reported there are 64 unaccompanied boys and four girls there. Nuccio estimated there are fewer than 200 people older than 70 and "a couple of dozen" who have been identified as gravely ill, suffering from heart conditions and the like.

Spouses of those who qualify for parole, as well as care-givers of the sick, will almost certainly be granted entry as well, officials said.

Catalina Reyes, a 33-year-old mother now in Guantanamo, said in a telephone interview that everybody in her camp was happy to hear the news.

"It's a step forward for us in this terrible situation we are in," she said. "There is much faith today."

Reyes, who was a radio and TV host in Cuba, is especially hopeful. Her 63-year-old husband, Juan Garcia Diaz, a former political prisoner, has rectal cancer. She hopes they can both come to Miami so he can receive proper medical care and she can take care of him.

Other countries approached

The administration at the same time announced it has launched "a major effort" to persuade other countries to accept some of the Cubans. Any of the detainees who are approved for legal travel to third countries are welcome to leave the camps in Guantanamo and Panama, officials said.

Venezuela and Mexico have offered to take in Cuban refugees

living in their countries. Nuccio said other countries have also expressed an interest in offering residence to the boat people.

Cubans approved for U.S. entry face a final hurdle. They must find sponsors who say they are willing to provide economic support for the refugees for the first six months. Medical care for the ill, at least in the short run, is being covered by U.S. military hospitals.

Mas Canosa said the refugees who will be left behind at the camps should not lose hope. He believes they will soon be allowed to go to third countries and once there can come to the United States under the Cuban American National Foundation's Exodus program.

But Skol insisted that immigration programs geared to help Cubans stranded in third countries reach the United States, including the Exodus program, would not be allowed to bring in Cubans who have been in Guantanamo or Panama.

Others need visas

Administration officials said U.S. policy toward the bulk of the refugees remains unchanged, and the only way the others will be able to come to the United States is if they return to Cuba and apply for a travel visa at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

U.S. officials quietly concede that most of the refugees at the Guantanamo and Panama bases are relying on the political clout of Cuban Americans in the United States to eventually win their entry.

That political muscle was in evidence this week, on the eve of a Clinton fund-raising trip to Miami. Thousands of Cuban exiles planned to receive him with protests against the indefinite detention of the refugees.

"If Clinton's visit is what did it, so be it," said Miami City Manager Cesar Odio, who called a meeting in his office Friday to trumpet the decision, six hours before the White House made its announcement.

Accompanying Odio were members of the Cuban American Advisory Ad Hoc Committee, an organization created at the beginning of the crisis to help improve the living conditions in the camps and make policy recommendations.

The move came a day after a group of Cuban-American attorneys met with top White House officials and threatened to sue the federal government for its policy of indefinite detention in

Jon

Ind. v. corporate

→ people go to the on local issues,
not to send Clinton a message

Cyril
Atty

→ said Pres noted Rgn good at talking about
this, were good at doing
→ we don't have mechanisms to get
to community - talk + give right answer
→ get msg. out → break question of
community + feel part of process

Paul &

this group is "family" as Jon said. →
so you can discuss this in private
→ place for any org. in Dark County to feel
a part of process
→ one goal: Pres re-elected in 1996,
advocacy locally - nationally

~~to be~~

Mary → inner circle of friends

Paul & → SV has workable model for inner circle
→ this would be sharing group of the large, take force of
national community (NJ, Fla., etc.)

Leaders say pressure for protest is easing

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

President Clinton's decision to release children and the elderly from the Guantánamo detention camps relieved fears that he might face angry demonstrations during tonight's fund-raising visit to Miami.

"I feel very, very good," City Manager Cesar Odio said Friday. "We are still going to see some demonstrations, but they will be very peaceful, just showing signs like 'Free our people.' People will show they are grateful."

Spanish-language radio commentator Tomas Garcia Fuste, who hosts call-in programs on WCMQ-AM, said the majority of his callers praised the releases and the president.

"People are elated that people are beginning to be released from the detention camps," he said.

The president and Mrs. Clinton are expected to arrive at Miami International Airport shortly before 6 p.m. today for a four-hour visit intended mostly to raise money for Democratic U.S. Senate candidates, including her brother, Hugh Rodham, of Miami.

The couple are to appear first at a \$10-per-person rally for Rodham at the Port of Miami. They will then also attend a \$10,000-per-couple dinner at the home of Coral Gables businessman Hugh Westbrook, finance chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Rodham said Friday that he and his Cuban-American wife, Maria Victoria Rodham, had spoken to Clinton and his aides several times over the past week about the highly publicized plight of the detained children.

He said the timing of the announcement had little to do with the president's political visit to Miami, although some city officials disagreed.

"I think it was the condition of the camp that caused him to move as quickly as he did," Rodham said. "He realized that we needed to get those children and the elderly out of there."

An appeal to release the children even appeared in full-page advertisements in Friday's New York Times and Washington Post. In the ad, Dr. Manuel Rico Perez of Miami urged Clinton: "As a father, I know you understand. Mr. President, these children beseech you to open the doors of the land of the free."

Rico said these ads, and another scheduled to run in today's Herald, cost him \$73,000 of his own money.

"Maybe the president had my ad along with his breakfast," Rico said.

Despite these developments, the presidential motorcade may encounter at least three groups protesting the decision last month to intercept and detain Cuban refugees at "safe havens" outside the United States. The largest of the detention facilities is at Guantánamo.

The grass-roots Cuban Unity, which in recent months has managed huge anti-Castro rallies in Little Havana and Hialeah, has called on Cuban exiles to line the roads and sidewalks that the motorcade is likely to take with signs urging the president to reverse his policy and allow the refugees to come to the United States.

The Valladares Foundation, headed by Armando Valladares, a former Cuban political prisoner and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations human rights commission, continued its call for Cuban exiles to refuse to serve the president if they have the opportunity.

"For example, if a Cuban waiter is asked by Clinton to bring a towel or bacon and eggs, he should tell Clinton, 'No, sorry Mr. President we don't have any of that, just like in Guantánamo,'" said Armando Gutierrez, a director of the Valladares Foundation in Miami.

Herald staff writer Alfonso Chardy contributed to this report.

Mark

→ Haiti should not be focus of summit
(Mark)

→ goal underlying of late 13th session

Some apprehension about Miami → Central Am. - Caribbean
more strongly linked

→ Miami has potential to

→ apprehension about demilitarization = "extraordinary work"
but distinct from purpose & mission of summit

Mont

recap

→ Luis Lando → de-nuclearize nuclear policy

→ don't end my address that way, etc

→ Paul → good perception that at some time all
children will come out → it's a "very clear expectation"

(but then children will become pawns, or
targets ~~into~~ for entry into US → they
will die crossing sea, catch sickness;
will be difficult to prove relationships &
children may be kidnapped

→ Cegus - perception that Cubans (& Haitians) denied due process
→ should be addressed - Indians who ask
for political asylum have right to due process

SV →
Joan

un-American Revolution contrast

Clinton's shift could boost support for Mas Canosa

By ALFONSO CHARDY
And LIZETTE ALVAREZ
Herald Staff Writers

The Clinton administration's announcement Friday allowing children, the elderly and the infirm to be released from detention camps may boost the recently battered image of Jorge Mas Canosa, the chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation.

Prior to the announcement, Mas Canosa had been under attack by some exiles who blamed him for the detention of more than 30,000 Cubans at the Guantanamo naval base and Panama. After all, they said, Mas Canosa had endorsed President Clinton's policy of detention, which ended the era of welcoming Cuban refugees with open arms.

"Jorge has indeed suffered some damage from the fallout," said Pedro Freyre, a Cuban American who analyzes the exile community for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Cuba Committee. "But this new development, the Clinton announcement, could help him recover. With this, the foundation has once again demonstrated its ability to deliver tangible political results."

Mas Canosa and the foundation did not directly take credit for the announcement. But Mas Canosa and his foundation staff knew that the White House was planning the announcement and let journalists know in advance some of the details. Later, Mas Canosa was among several exile leaders who spoke publicly about the decision hours before it was

announced in Washington.

Praise in Little Havana

In recent days, Mas Canosa undertook highly publicized efforts to persuade Clinton to release the children in Guantanamo, including a meeting with Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rosello last week that resulted in a letter from Rosello to Clinton offering the children refuge in Puerto Rico.

Mas Canosa's and the foundation's role in the policy shift Friday was not lost on exiles in Little Havana.

"The bad thing is to sit and do nothing," said Miguel Victorero. "The easiest thing to do is just talk. At least [Mas Canosa] is doing something. He's trying."

And this from Alberto Perdomo, a visitor to a Calle Ocho barbershop: "He's done good work. Guantanamo was not his fault, and as you can see, the situation is progressing thanks to him."

It was a different story two weeks ago.

"Mas Canosa, I don't trust that man anymore," said Teresa Pereira, one of the 15 exiles interviewed in Little Havana, 14 of whom were critical of Mas Canosa. "You can't believe what he says anymore."

Until Friday, many callers on Spanish language talk shows railed against Mas Canosa, accusing him of betraying Cuban-Americans with his tacit approval of the detention policy. Yesterday, the criticism began to let up.

"During a Friday afternoon call-in show people were very



TIM CHAPMAN / Herald Staff

DIVULGING DETAILS OF CLINTON PLAN: Jorge Mas Canosa, left, and City Manager Cesar Odio, at City Hall.

happy that people are going to start getting out of the camps," said Tomas Garcia Fuste, news director at Spanish-language radio station WCMQ-Cadena Nacional. "This sentiment will benefit Mas Canosa indirectly."

Mas Canosa did not return a call to his office seeking comment for this article. But Francisco "Pepe" Hernandez, the foundation president, said Mas Canosa has been wrongly vilified. Mas Canosa, Hernandez said, behaved diplomatically, making the best of a situation he was unable to change.

Punishing Castro

Mas Canosa himself has said he backed Clinton not because he liked the detention policy but because Clinton agreed to punish Fidel Castro by banning exile

travel and cash transfers to Cuba, a major source of revenue for the Cuban government.

What's more, Clinton enacted the detention policy without consulting Mas Canosa or other exile leaders. Mas Canosa and three other leaders then endorsed Clinton's overall policy, including detention, during a White House meeting Aug. 19 at the height of the crisis.

Counting on Clinton

Did Mas Canosa make the right choice in backing Clinton?

Jaime Suchlicki, a University of Miami Cuban affairs expert, said Mas Canosa backed Clinton because of the perception that Clinton indeed has been tough on Castro given the travel and cash bans.

'He's done good work. Guantanamo was not his fault, and as you can see, the situation is progressing thanks to him.'

ALBERTO PERDOMO,
discussing Mas Canosa,
in Calle Ocho barber shop

"Mas Canosa is banking that the Clinton administration will maintain a hard-line policy toward Castro and he feels that as long as Clinton maintains that policy he'll support him and when he doesn't he'll break with him and denounce the policy," Suchlicki said.

In his first public statement after the Aug. 19 meeting with Clinton, Mas Canosa justified his actions.

"We would have preferred in the foundation and myself personally that this measure related to sending the Cubans to Guantanamo would not have been taken," Mas Canosa said on WCMQ-Cadena Nacional radio.

He said he endorsed the policy because Clinton had made the decision and it was "irreversible." He urged exiles not to dwell on detentions and focus instead on the other presidential decisions which, he said, would hasten Castro's downfall.

Herald staff writer Ana Menendez contributed to this report.

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Conference Room x66636 Rm 476

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page 54

3:00

~~4~~ ~~5~~ 4

- plan meeting about so not
subsequent to Res.

~~10~~

1. Atty Vandy
2. Maria Pina

Dennis Flayer

6

~~10~~
(Simon Fano)

Questions on summit:

* → better agree more CEO type meeting of free-to-free
meetings & merge summit participants & organizers
↳ better coordination

→ "Lichy is essential"
→ "further meetings are next logical chapters"

* → GATT - looked at from European perspective
anti-dumping laws & protection not really in L.A. countries
→ Paul is need agreement; can't destroy accomplishments of W.H. (ATF)

→ Paul → summit in able hands → wants to hear Adams
perspective on what role they can play

→ Maria wants list of countries participating in summit
+ to know what they're thinking
↳ make - mixed feelings understandable

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

October 7, 1994

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL MCCURRY, SPOKESMAN

CUBA: FIRST VOLUNTARY RETURN OF CUBAN MIGRANTS
FROM GUANTANAMO TO CUBA

A first group of 17 Cuban migrants who requested voluntary return were flown from Guantanamo Naval Base to Havana this morning aboard an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) plane.

Their return was arranged through diplomatic channels, as stipulated in the migration agreement concluded between the United States and the Republic of Cuba in New York on September 19.

Several hundred Cubans at Guantanamo have requested voluntary return to Cuba. The U.S. Interests Section in Havana is working with the Cuban authorities concerning the arrangements for their return home.

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Office of the Press Secretary

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Third, she will parole into the United States migrants over 70.

In each case, we will ensure that those paroled in have appropriate sponsors.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 19, 1994

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT

The East Room

1:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. In recent weeks the Castro regime has encouraged Cubans to take to the sea in unsafe vessels to escape their nation's internal problems. In so doing, it has risked the lives of thousands of Cubans, and several have already died in their efforts to leave.

This action is a cold-blooded attempt to maintain the Castro grip on Cuba, and to divert attention from his failed communist policies. He has tried to export to the United States the political and economic crises he has created in Cuba, in defiance of the democratic tide flowing throughout this region.

Let me be clear: The Cuban government will not succeed in any attempt to dictate American immigration policy. The United States will do everything within its power to ensure that Cuban lives are saved and that the current outflow of refugees is stopped.

Today, I have ordered that illegal refugees from Cuba will not be allowed to enter the United States. Refugees rescued at sea will be taken to our naval base at Guantanamo, while we explore the possibility of other safe havens within the region.

To enforce this policy, I have directed the Coast Guard to continue its expanded effort to stop any boat illegally attempting to bring Cubans to the United States. The United States will detain, investigate and, if necessary, prosecute Americans who take to the sea to pick up Cubans. Vessels used in such activities will be seized.

I want to compliment the Coast Guard and the Immigration and Naturalization Service for their efforts. And I want to thank Florida's officials, including Governor Chiles and the Florida congressional delegation, for their help in protecting and saving the lives of Cubans who seek to escape the regime.

Helen.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q You're ending --

2

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

Q The people who reach here.

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

Brit.

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

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

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

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

Andrea.

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

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

Secondly, as to whether it is immoral, I just would say it

is my belief that the American people and that the Cuban American people and the people of Florida -- but the people of the entire United States -- do not want to see another Mariel Boatlift. They do not want to see Cuba dictate our immigration policy. They do not want to see Mr. Castro able to export his political and economic problems to the United States.

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

Q Can you respond to that other question?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keep in mind, the great beauty of this crime bill is it's the first major program in American history that's being financed entirely by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy and taking all the savings from the federal government and putting it in a

trust fund to help grass-roots Americans get better control over their own lives.

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

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

I am not a member of the Congress. They have to work out all the details. If they produced this bill out of the conference, I would have happily supported this, as I did the other one.

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

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

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

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

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

especially in Florida, who feel betrayed by this change in policy?

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

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what we are telling Cubans is that we have a provision for their coming to the United States through in-country processing. And at least as of this date, we have no evidence that the Castro has done anything to discourage Cubans from coming to the in-country processing, applying for the visas if they're eligible to come here, and getting them. That's what we're saying to them. That is, we do not have any evidence that would justify believing that that that process won't work in Cuba as it has in other places. And, indeed, the Castro government has encouraged Cubans to go down and apply to come here. But we don't object to that, that's the policy we have everywhere and that's the policy we should have there.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The United States had done more than any other country to try to bring an end to the Castro government. We have done it through the Cuban Democracy Act. We have done it through the embargo. We have worked hard, often laboring almost alone, to that end. And we will continue to do that by whatever *REASONABLE MEANS ARE AVAILABLE TO US.*

6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 23, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

At the request of Governor Lawton Chiles, the Administration is sending a delegation of senior officials to south Florida tomorrow to consult with the community on the current outflow Cuban/Latigrants. The delegation includes officials from the White House, the Department of State, the National Security Council staff and the Department of Defense. These meetings continue our close consultations with elected State and local officials and community, civic and political groups in Florida.

As the President said when he announced these actions last week, the United States will do everything within its power to ensure that Cuban lives are saved, that migrants picked up at sea are given safe haven outside the US, but that they will not be admitted to the U.S.

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The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

CON EL RUEGO DE SU PUBLICACION

23 Agosto, 1994

A petición del Gobernador Lawton Chiles, la administración del Presidente Bill Clinton está enviando una delegación de altos funcionarios al Sur de la Florida mañana Miércoles, 24 Agosto para consultar con miembros de la comunidad sobre la actual situación de los Cubanos que estan abandonando la isla de Cuba en balsas.

Esta delegación incluye oficiales de la Casa Blanca, el Departamento de Estado, el Consejo de Seguridad Nacional y el Departamento de Defensa. Estas reuniones son parte de nuestro continuo esfuerzo de consultar con los oficiales electos, líderes cívicos y políticos de la Florida.

Como informara el Presidente Clinton la semana pasada cuando anunció medidas para enfrentar la actual situación, nosotros haremos todo lo que esté en nuestro poder para asegurar que las vidas de estos Cubanos no peligran. Los Cubanos que sean recogidos en altamar no seran admitidos a los EE UU, pero van a ser llevados a un area de refugio seguro fuera de los Estados Unidos.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

I N D E X

Monday, August, 22 1994Briefers: Peter Tarnoff
Mort Halperin
Doris Meissner
Christine Shelly

CUBA

Opening Remarks by Under Secretary Tarnoff	1-2
US Immigration Policy/Safehavens/Asylum	2-11
-- Cuban Adjustment Act	7
Discussions with US re: Migration	4-5, 9
Reason for Migration	5
Policy on Voluntary Repatriation	5
Treatment of Cubans Applying for Emigration to US	5-6
US Consultations at UN	6

NIGERIA

Arrest of Labor Leaders/US Reaction	15-16
---	-------

SOMALIA

US Motorcade Fired on	16-17
UN Indian Peacekeepers Killed	17

MEXICO

Elections	17-21
-----------------	-------

KOREA

Resumption of Expert-Level Talks	21-22
IAEA Inspection Policy	22-23

OPTIONAL FORM 38 (7-90)

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of pages 1

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPC #121

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1994, 1:39 P. M.
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MS. SHELLY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm pleased to begin today's press briefing by introducing Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff, Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director Democracy Mort Halperin, and Commissioner for the Immigration and Naturalization Service Doris Meissner who are here to address the Cuban issue.

Under Secretary Tarnoff will begin with some remarks, after which all three will be prepared to take your questions. Following this, I will address your questions on other issues, should you decide that you have any. Thank you very much.

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Thank you, Christine. Good afternoon. Why don't I begin with a statement and then, as Christine indicated, we will be available for your questions.

* { For over 30 years the United States has had a policy of promoting peaceful change in Cuba. The measures announced by the President over the past few days are fully consistent with this policy. They are designed to control unauthorized migration to help address the humanitarian plight of desperate people and to keep the Castro regime from benefiting from its abuse of human rights.

By encouraging Cuban citizens to put to sea in flimsy vessels, the regime has callously endangered the lives of thousands. The fact that so many are willing to take such an extreme risk is a sign of their belief that meaningful political and economic change in Cuba is not possible under the present regime.

* { Fidel Castro has spoken correctly of the Cuban people as the country's leading resource. But by his attempt to use unregulated emigration in order to create a safety valve for his regime, he is sacrificing that very resource.

-2-

Monday, 8/22/94

We are actively exploring with other nations in the region the establishment of safehavens. When such arrangements are arrived at, they will be announced by the host countries concerned. I believe that there will be such announcements shortly.

For the past decade, there has been an in-country refugee processing program, one of only four in the world, in Cuba. We give great importance to legal immigration from Cuba, and the legal immigrant ceiling for Cubans coming to the United States has not been reached since the signing of the 1984 Migration Agreement.

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We are considering means of augmenting legal emigration from Cuba, and we are also prepared to discuss legal emigration with the Cuban Government. The proper form to do is the Bilateral Migration Talks which began in 1984.

The additional measures announced Saturday by the President are not aimed at the Cuban people but are intended to limit the ability of the Cuban Government to accumulate foreign exchange which it can use to sustain its structures to suppress dissent. These steps are also aimed at expanding the flow of information to the Cuban people. These measures also are entirely consistent with the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 which the Administration strongly supports.

Again, let me repeat that it is the Castro Government which bears heavy responsibility for the suffering of the people of Cuba. We're prepared to go to questions.

Q Could I ask you just a couple of technical questions. So far as the people who will be given sanctuary in other countries in havens, will they be eligible to be processed as political refugees, and how about the people who we -- I assume that people still can maybe get to shore here without being intercepted, which also raises the question, are you simply trying to block -- I know Perry's ruled out a blockade. Are you trying to make it impossible for Cubans to get here on their own hook? And what if they do? Are they still eligible to be political refugees? What did you do to the law which granted them political asylum? Did you find a loophole?

MS. MEISSNER: As to those who are presently at Guantanamo and will move on to other safehaven sites, they are being, as you know, rescued, and they will receive international protection. Those safehaven sites are situations of first asylum, such as exist around the world. They will be administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and they will receive international protection.

-3-

Monday, 8/22/94

You ask then about people intercepted and coming to --

Q Before you leave them, will those people -- I don't know what they mean.

MS. MEISSNER: And they will not --

Q If they wanted to stay home, they would have stayed at home. Now they're going into camps, which may be marginally better than staying at home. Their objective was to come to the United States. Do they have a shot at it?

MS. MEISSNER: No, they do not.

Q So you keep them for a while and then ship them back? Is that the idea?

MS. MEISSNER: Their stay is indefinite at this point.

Q Okay. How about the folks that manage to get here on those rafts, if people do get here, if you're not out hunting them down?

MS. MEISSNER: There are very few that actually are getting here. The vast majority are being rescued by the Coast Guard, and we expect that will continue.

Q And the few that get here also --

MS. MEISSNER: The few that get here are being detained. They are in detention, presently at the INS detention center called Krome in Miami.

Q Can't they try to make a case that they're political refugees?

MS. MEISSNER: If they're in the United States, they have the right to apply for political asylum.

Q And what if somebody's given haven in some island, can he try to make a case, or is he automatically sent back home?

MS. MEISSNER: At the present time, we do not envision any kind of screening or refugee processing for those people.

Q Has there been any evidence so far that any of the Cubans that have been intercepted are prisoners in Cuba? That was a problem with the Mariel boat lift.

-4-

Monday, 8/22/94

MS. MEISSNER: We have no evidence of that at the present time, although we are checking everybody's records.

Q And the second question would be, will there be processing actually taking place at Guantanamo Bay, or will that be -- that's where the processing will be taking place?

MS. MEISSNER: What will happen and what is happening at Guantanamo Bay, because the first 575 have now arrived there, they are being registered, and then they are being counseled by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as to what safehaven involves.

Q Peter, your statement that peaceful change is not possible under the Castro regime has a certain implication -- possible implications. Is the implication that the United States is prepared to do something more directly to remove the Castro regime and therefore create the atmosphere for peaceful change?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Jim, in my remarks, I said that the Cubans who were taking to the rafts and going out on the sea had reached the conclusion, on the basis of our conversations with them, that it is highly unlikely that there will be peaceful change in Cuba, and that is the reason that they have taken this great risk by going out onto the ocean.

I think our point of view has been,--again for these decades, that it is in the interests of the hemisphere and above all the people of Cuba for this peaceful change to occur, and the Cuban Democracy Act provides a blend of incentives and measures for the United States to help promote that change.

Q You mentioned in your opening statement the United States was prepared to discuss migration with Fidel Castro. Is that like a face-to-face type discussion, and are you willing to discuss anything other than migration with him?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: No. As I mentioned in the statement, we have had for the past ten years a series of talks with the Cuban Government at mid-level in both of our governments -- talks about migration issues. There have been, I think, half a dozen of those meetings over the last three years, and we are proposing that the same level meeting dealing only with migration issue be reconvened so as to discuss the present condition.

Q So discussions with Castro, other than on that topic, are out?

-5-

Monday, 8/22/94

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: That's right. There's no prospect of a dialogue on other matters. We feel that the Cuban Government must attend to its responsibility for the current emergency, and that the proper place for that dialogue to take place is in the migration talk format.

Q Secretary Tarnoff, several questions come to mind. I think we'll start with are the Cubans -- is the Castro regime and the police authorities doing anything at all to prevent this exodus, or (1) are they forcing any people into the sea; and I think it would be interesting to know if any of those who have been returned have been captured -- recaptured and taken back into Cuba have been persecuted? What is happening to them?

And then, finally, why are so many going to sea at this time? What's behind it?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Let me answer the question first of all in a larger context and then a more immediate one. I think a larger context is that there is very little evidence that the Government of Cuba is taking the kind of measures which will reassure its population that there is much hope, and that is why we are seeing the levels of despair leading to this kind of mass emigration. People are simply giving up on the government because of the dismal record not only of political persecution but of lack of interest in political and economic reform.

The government clearly is not unhappy to see people leaving the way they are now departing. There is not any evidence, as Doris Meissner indicated, that they are evacuating facilities as they did in 1980, so that so-called undesirables would be part of the flow. But, nonetheless, the government is finding ways to encourage and make it possible for this emigration to take place.

When you talk about people who are returning, I think you might only be referring to those few Cubans who over the past years have chosen to return to Cuba. And when a Cuban who has taken refuge in the United States asks to return, we notify the Cuban Government, and we make arrangements for that person -- again voluntarily -- to go back to Cuba, and we seek assurances from the Cuban Government that these people will not suffer consequences as a result of their desire to return.

Q Do we see persecution of those few that have been returned on boats and have been recaptured and those who are going to our Interests Section and making application? Do we see persecution, particularly of those people who want to get out?

-6-

Monday, 8/22/94

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: There have been cases in the past in which not only people -- not people who were returned, but people who have expressed a desire to emigrate have suffered when they have had to go back to their neighborhoods and wait for the legal emigration to be effected.

Q You say you're going to discuss safehaven possibilities with a number of countries in the region. Well, there are a number of countries in the region that have diplomatic relations with Cuba. Do you expect those countries to be open to safehaven possibilities?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Again, it will be up to those countries to make the announcements, and I think we will have some shortly, but, yes, I think that among those countries providing safehavens will be countries which have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Q A question: Now that some of the people are talking about blockade, some other time comes to mind. Have there been any consultations with the Russians? Have the Russians showed any interests in what's going on? Have you been communicating with them, or is it just U.S.-Cuban matter?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: To my knowledge, the conversations with the Russians have taken place in the context of the U.N. Security Council where informally the matters have been discussed. I can't tell you of any direct bilateral conversations with Russia on the issue, but the matter is discussed in New York and, of course, Russia as a permanent member of the Security Council is a part of those conversations.

Q (Inaudible) -- with the blockade issue which is being mentioned over the last two days. Do you think you have to consult the Russians or again would you just go ahead and do what you want?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Let me say that the Administration, the President in particular, is not ruling in or ruling out any particular measure, but that a blockade as such is not presently being contemplated.

Q Do we understand correctly that Cubans in Cuba who seek to come to the United States -- the only way they can now do that is in-country processing in Havana or somehow eluding the Coast Guard and arriving on our shores, which is very unlikely. Is that correct?

MS. MEISSNER: For people coming out of Cuba legally, they can come, number one, through the in-country refugee

-7-

Monday, 8/22/94

rocessing program, if they have a claim for persecution. But they may also come as legal immigrants in the same way as the people who want to immigrate here from any other country. We have a normal migration relationship with Cuba here legal immigration is concerned.

So they are eligible for immigrant visas. More than 1,000 people have come so far this fiscal year with immigrant visas, and that process operates by people -- relatives in the United States filing applications for them. We intend to be emphasizing that much more directly than has been the case in the past, and we intend to be working much more closely with the Cuban-American community in this country to be sure that they are making applications for their relatives.

Q Just to follow up, but if you do get in a raft or a boat, is there any way that you are going to gain entry to the United States under the new regime -- under the new --

MS. MEISSNER: No.

Q Peter, or whoever is best equipped to answer this question: The Administration's critics are saying that this policy is in fact against the law, it's breaking the law. Newt Gingrich, among others, has made that charge. Can you walk us through how you rationalize the existing policy, and how it is not in contravention of existing law?

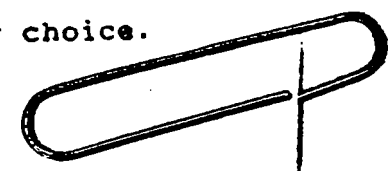
MS. MEISSNER: The existing law that is referred to is called the Cuban Adjustment Act. The Cuban Adjustment Act is a law that was passed in 1966, and it allows for the adjustment to permanent residence of Cubans who have been in the United States for at least one year.

The law says that the Cubans who are in the United States eligible for the Cuban Adjustment Act must have been inspected or admitted, which is a legal procedure of coming to the United States under authorized means.

The Act was passed in 1966 in order to give a legal status to people who were brought to the United States, again in an authorized fashion, after the Cuban revolution. It is a law that has remained on the books, but it applies only to people who are already here and have come, having been inspected or admitted.

Q So the custom of allowing people in, as they were, even in the Mariel boat period, was more a custom rather than the actual -- we weren't fulfilling obligations of the existing -- *bill*

MS. MEISSNER: That's right. It was a policy choice.



-8-

Monday, 8/22/94

Q The people who are being held right now at Krome, what is their status? How long are they going to be held there? And is there any chance of their being released, or what's their situation?

MS. MEISSNER: Their situation is that they're detained. There are a little more than 500 right now. They will have full due process rights as do other people who come to the United States improperly but who can take advantage of their rights under the immigration law.

Q What happens with the Cubans that leave through the Guantanamo base? Will the procedure be the same as the ones that come in rafts?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: People who leave -- I'm sorry?

Q Who leave through the base at Guantanamo?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Who --

Q Leave the island and walk directly to Guantanamo base, what will happen to them?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: The gate is closed and people will not be admitted. If anybody does find their way onto the base directly from Cuba, they will be treated in the same way as the people who are rescued at sea and brought to the base.

Q How long -- if their detention is indefinite and there is no prospect for democratic or economic change in Cuba, as you have said, how soon are you going to start negotiating, or will you start negotiating with Castro to take them back even though Castro himself said recently in a press conference that, according to their own laws, these people are subject to jail?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Let me answer the political part of that, and that is, since the Mariel boat lift the United States has been attempting to reach an agreement with Cuba for the Castro government to accept back several thousand people -- the so-called "excludables" who were put into the Mariel boat lift deliberately by Castro in 1980. We've not succeeded in doing so. Obviously, if there are people in that category in the current flow, we would continue our attempts to have them returned as well.

Q What about the rest of the people who are not criminals and such as happened with the Mariel excludables that you're talking about? We're assuming that not all of

-9-

Monday, 8/22/94

the thousands of detainees will be criminals. So what will happen with the rest of them? Where are you going to hold them indefinitely, and how soon, or will you negotiate to send them back?

MS. MEISSNER: As Mr. Tarnoff said, that is not a negotiation that is contemplated. The very, very, very large majority of this flow will be in safehavens settings in the region. There are a small number, as we know, that are in the United States. Their detention is indefinite. As I said, they have due process rights available, and that due process will play itself out.

Q Can we ask again, how long do you contemplate them staying in these safehavens?

MS. MEISSNER: As we said, that's indefinite.

Q Have our people from the Interests Section in Havana met with the Cuban Government to discuss this change in policy? And has there been any response from the Cuban Government?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Yes. Before the announcement and after the announcement by the President on Saturday there were meetings both here and in Havana when U.S. officials informed -- notified -- the Cuban Government of our policy and the reasons for the policy. There was not a significant exchange, but we did notify the Cuban Government both before and after the President's announcement of what our intentions were.

Q You've had no response since then?

Q To what extent is the United States now treating Cuba pretty much the same as Haiti with the recent steps, both on the question of refugees and putting pressures to try to bring about a change of the government?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I think you can say that for now we are treating both cases substantially in the same manner.

Q Can you give us some idea of the numbers you're expecting in terms of your preparations in the safehaven areas -- those announced at Guantanamo Bay and those not yet announced? What are you asking these other countries in terms of numbers?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: I'd rather not get into a speculation about numbers until the announcements are made by these countries. But I think that we will have substantial slots available in the near future for Cubans

-10-

Monday, 8/22/94

going into the safehavens. But those invitations, so to speak, will have to be confirmed by the governments themselves.

Q So logistically, you're asking them to prepare safehavens and there has to be some amount expected?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: That's right. And when the countries themselves decide to make the decisions, it will be possible for all of you to know exactly what's available in the countries.

Q Just a little factual question. Slots -- normal immigration: How many slots are there for Cubans; how many have been used at this point?

You're speaking of the normal way of coming in?

MS. MEISSNER: Right, right, the normal way of coming. So far this year, through July of this fiscal year, 2,300 refugees have come to the United States from Cuba; 2,059 immigrants have come from Cuba, again, through July of this fiscal year. It gives us the final quarter to go.

One can work up to a ceiling of 20,000.

Q That's for immigration?

MS. MEISSNER: That's for immigration, and refugees that are apart from that. So there's substantial room for additional immigration.

Q Just to follow up on that. That's not filled because you don't have enough applicants, or because you're finding people ineligible?

MS. MEISSNER: No, because there are not enough applicants.

Q Can you explain to us why, if you can talk to North Korea, you can't talk to the Cuban Government except on these low-level migration talks? Do they need to get a bomb?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: Each country is different. But all I can say is that over the year -- and not just in the course of this Administration -- the Government of Cuba has given absolutely no indication that it is prepared to deal in a serious way with the root causes of the crisis in Cuba; namely, the lack of political and economic reform, the repression of its own people. This is only a determination made by the Clinton Administration. But there has not been

-11-

Monday, 8/22/94

any significant evidence that the Government of Cuba is prepared to deal with the root causes.

Given the fact that these consequences directly impact on the United States, we feel that the first measures have to be taken by the Government of Cuba to address what happens to be the crisis in its own management of its own society. That's where the process should begin.

Q In the Wall Street Journal this morning, there was some speculation that a significant presence of Cubans in Guantanamo would provide an opportunity for perhaps some political agitation for a political presence of opposition on the island of Cuba. To what extent would the United States be willing to tolerate any political activities by these people on Guantanamo?

MR. HALPERIN: No such step is contemplated. These people are in a safehaven status, protected by the U.N. High Commissioner and that will remain their status.

Q Since you drew a parallel between Haiti and Cuba, does the United States now expect to go to the United Nations for support from the Security Council for a certain kind of resolution? If so, what kind of resolution?

UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF: What the President announced on Saturday was that we would make increased efforts at the United Nations to bring a whole series of Cuban human rights abuses to the attention of not only the Security Council but the U.N. Commission for Human Rights.

There has been a pattern of abuse that has been pointed out in various U.N. fora for decades. We are determined to make even clearer to the Security Council and elsewhere in the U.N. that the human rights abuses of the Castro Administration are among the policies that have produced the kind of crises that we're now seeing.

Q Just a follow-up. What do you want the U.N. to do?

MS. SHELLY: Thank you.

(Following the above briefing, the Daily Briefing commenced at 1:05 p.m. with Deputy Spokesman Christine Shelly.)

MS. SHELLY: Thank you very much. Sorry, our briefers do not have anymore time. They've all got to get off to other meetings which were actually supposed to start a few minutes to go.

AUG 22 '94 17:24 FROM OASD-PA-DDI

PAGE.001

Post-It Fax Note 7671		Date 22 AUG	# of Pages 4
To Mr. Ruge	From FERGUSON		
Co./Dept.	On ATSD-PA		
Phone #	Phone # 5-092		
Fax # 5-8404	Fax # 7-3501		

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry
Deputy Secretary of Transportation Mortimore Downey
Admiral Paul David Miller, Commander, U.S. Atlantic Command
Rear Admiral William Lahey, Commander, 7th Coast Guard District
Key West, Florida
Monday, August 22, 1994

Secretary Perry. Thank you very much, Dennis.

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

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

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

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

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

Deputy Secretary Downey: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

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

We'll be glad to answer your questions.

Q: (Inaudible)

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

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

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

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

PAGE.003

Q: [Inaudible]

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

Q: [Inaudible]

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

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AUG-22-1994 18:57 FROM OSD-RSA-IA
AUG 22 '94 17:27 FROM OASD-PA-DDI

WH POLITICAL AFF
TO

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PAGE.004

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

Thank you very much.

.END.

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Distribution

24 August 1994
Press Contact:
(202) 401-7013

RADIO MARTI EXPANDS SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS

(Washington, D.C.): The Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), which oversees Radio Marti, the official U.S. government-sponsored radio broadcasts to Cuba, announced that Radio Marti has added seven new frequencies to its shortwave transmissions. In addition, Radio Marti intends to continue utilizing three of its previously-assigned shortwave frequencies in order to provide the Cuban audience with more alternatives to be able to hear Radio Marti.

This frequency expansion is staggered throughout Radio Marti's 24-hour broadcast schedule. As the attached broadcast schedule shows, during much of the day, the Cuban people will have two shortwave frequencies broadcasting Radio Marti's programming.

The new shortwave frequency schedule makes it more difficult for the Cuban government to jam Radio Marti broadcasts. It is another example of President Clinton's commitment to increase the flow of objective, uncensored and comprehensive news and information to Cuba.

Radio Marti's shortwave frequency expansion was implemented at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23. Radio Marti has aired regular announcements designed to inform the Cuban people of the new broadcast frequencies.

Dr. Rolando Bonachea, Director of Radio Marti, stated, "This recent Radio Marti broadcast initiative will enhance our accessibility to our audience in Cuba. With this expanded shortwave broadcast schedule, the Cuban people will have more opportunities to listen to the message of freedom, democracy and human rights which Radio Marti provides."

-30-

NEW RADIO MARTI SHORTWAVE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE AT 7:00 P.M., 8-23-94

<u>TIME (E.D.T.)</u>	<u>FREQUENCIES (kHz)</u>
2:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.	6030 (No Change)
8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	9615 and 11730 (New Frequencies)
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	11740 (New Frequency)
3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.	11930 (No Change)
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.	9525 (No Change) and 11950 (New Frequency)
8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	9525 (No Change) and 11910 (New Frequency)
10:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	9525 (No Change) and 6190 (New Frequency)
11:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.	9525 (No Change) and 6120 (New Frequency)

United States Information Agency

INFORMATION MEMO

August 23, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: B - Joseph B. Bruns
B - Geoffrey Cowan

THROUGH: B/C - Richard M. Lobo *RLM*

FROM: B/C - Rolando E. Bonachea *REB*

SUBJECT: OCB Response to Crisis in Cuba Update,
August 22-23

- In an effort to amplify and broaden its broadcasting into Cuba, Radio Marti is planning to increase the output of its Marathon, Florida transmitter, effective Wednesday morning.
- TV Marti expanded its newscast from half-hour to an hour in anticipation of an expanded broadcast schedule from 3:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- Seven short wave frequencies were added to Radio Marti's broadcasting schedule. The promo announcing the change in frequencies began to air every fifteen minutes at 4:30 p.m.
- Radio Marti broadcast the full list of Cubans being held in the Guantanamo Naval Base during a special one-hour program at midnight. The program was interspersed with correspondent reports gathering reactions to the crisis in Cuba from Cuban-American opinion leaders. The advisory that fleeing Cubans would not be granted transit to the U.S. continues to be aired every half-hour. This special program will continue indefinitely.
- Arrangements are being made for a Radio Marti reporter to travel to Guantanamo Naval Base Friday morning or earlier if possible.
- Expanded newscasts featured statements by U.S. Government officials detailing the evolving procedures for implementation of the new policies.
- Frequent weather reports continue to emphasize treacherous tropical conditions for small vessels in the Florida Straits.

AUG 23 '84 11:30PM

- Pleas by celebrities, church and community leaders calling upon Cubans not to risk suicide in the "corridor of death" continued to be highlighted in all newscasts and feature programs.

- Tragic stories by survivors of the perilous journey were featured in contrast to the reports of the thousands rescued at sea daily and being detained in Guantanamo.

- The focus of our entertainment programs was shifted from light fare to sober warnings against leaving the island and public service announcements reading the scores of names of those in Guantanamo and Krome Avenue Detention Centers. *Cartelera Popular*, a top-40's musical show, *Dos a las Dos*, a live magazine format show and *Musica para Todos* were among the shows reading the names.

- A special *Rueda de Prensa* aired on Monday night featuring an interview with *Hermanos al Rescate* pilot, Jose Basulto's eye-witness of accounts of the tragedies in the corridor of death. The regular 9 p.m. slot was followed by a special half-hour newscast at 9:30 p.m.

- Focus on the plight of Cuban youths, who represent the largest group of those fleeing, was placed in news and programming.

- Secretary of Defense Perry's statements, U.S. Government efforts to identify third country safe havens for Cuban refugees were reported on as well as White House and State Department briefings.

- A half-hour wrap up will air at midnight gathering all the Cuba in crisis news of the day (August 23).

cc: D - Joseph Duffey
D - Penn Kemble
CL - Doug Wilson

United States Information Agency

INFORMATION MEMO

August 22, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: B - Joseph B. Bruns
B - Geoffrey Cowan

THROUGH: B/C - Richard M. Lobo *RMB*

FROM: B/C - Rolando E. Bonachea *R.E. Bonachea*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

•TV Marti newscasts and all Radio Marti newscasts on the hour and half-hour are featuring the advisory by the State Department that those reaching Guantanamo Naval Base will not be granted automatic entry into the US. The Advisory urges Cubans to resort to the official channels to apply for immigration through the US Interest Section in Havana which will continue to process requests in an orderly fashion.

•Radio Marti has initiated a "*De Cubano a Cubano*" series of "man-on-the-street" interviews with Cuban-Americans in Miami pleading with their loved ones on the island not to leave.

•The "800" *Puente Familiar* telephone line is being disseminated on Miami and New Jersey spanish language radio as a public service announcement for Cuban-Americans to record messages to their families in Cuba. The production schedule is being expanded in order to air the messages daily in 15-minute and hour-long spots throughout the week.

•A series of news actuality reports in the voice of *Brothers to the Rescue* pilots describe the situation in the "corridor of death" in the Florida Straits, highlighting the number of empty rafts being spotted given the increased number of those fleeing. The pilots urge Cubans not to leave warning them that the probability of being rescued has diminished.

•A series of celebrity messages "*De Cubano a Cubano*" are being recorded for placement in magazine format programs and as fillers throughout the broadcasts. Arturo Sandoval and Mickey Rourke are among the celebrities featured. Gloria Estefan, Willy Chirino, Celia Cruz and other notable Cuban-American artists are being contacted.

•Weather reports have been expanded from feature length newscasts three times a day to all newscasts on the hour. The weather reports highlight the deceiving appearance of "calm" coastal waters in contrast to the turbulent seas encountered just miles from the coast in tropical weather conditions.

•Calls by church and community leaders and human rights activists against the dangerous escape by raft are being broadcast throughout the day.

•A special *Mesa Redonda* on Radio Marti will feature a roundtable debate on the significance of this policy change by the Clinton Administration.

•Reactions by South Florida opinion leaders to the policy pronouncement by President Clinton are being reported, offering explanations of the importance of avoiding another Mariel.

•Permission to interview detainees at the Krome Detention Center has been denied by officials there. Justice Department authorization is being requested.

•A special "News in Action" program was broadcast on Sunday and repeated Monday with President Clinton's policy announcement, comments by opinion leaders on the value of the policy.

AUG 22 '54 10:00PM

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FAX COVER SHEET

NOTE: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS
CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT ONLY.

DATE: 8/23/94

TO:

SUSANNA VALDEZ

FAX #:

x6-6218

FROM:

JANEY MURPHY

RE:

PLEASE FAX TOSUSANNA IN MIAMI, FLTonight. Thanks, JM

PAGE 1 OF _____

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call
(202) 456-6620.

FAX SENT: _____

MEMO

TO: JOE VELASQUEZ
RETA LEWIS
SUZANNA VALDEZ

FR: JANET MURGUIA
DT: August 23, 1994

RE: List of invited and confirmed Members of Congress and/or staff representatives attending 9:30am Cuba policy briefing in Miami, FL on Wednesday, August 24, 1994.

- o Senator Bob Graham
Staff attendee: Ellen Roth
- o Senator Connie Mack
Staff attendee: Javier Vasquez
- o Rep. Carrie Meek*
Staff attendee: Guy Furchine
- o Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Staff attendee: Unknown
- o Rep. Harry Johnston
Staff attendee: Unknown
- o Rep. Peter Deutsch
Staff attendee: Pearl Siegel
- o Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Staff attendee: Anna Carbonell
- o Rep. E. Clay Shaw
Staff attendee: Dorothy Stuart
- o Rep. Alcee Hastings
Staff attendee: None

(* Denotes confirmation of attendance by a Member of Congress)

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON A FREE CUBA

Mr. Steven Albee
Mr. Teo A. Babun
Mr. Paul L. Cejas
Mr. Bruce J. Colan
Mr. Francisco J. De Varone
Ms. Maria R. Dominguez
Mr. Ralph E. Fernandez
Mr. Julio Gonzalez-Rebull
Dr. Guillermo J. Grenier
Mr. Luis J. Lauredo
Mr. J. C. Lorenzo
Ms. Mercedes F. McCall
Mr. Erelío F. Pena
Mr. Carlos M. Perez
Mr. Luis Sabines
Ms. Maria Elena Toruno
Mr. Luis Andres Vargas-Gomez
Mr. Joe Pena

Mr. Joaquin G. Avino
Dra. Moravia Capo
Dr. Manuel R. Cereijo
Mr. Jose J. Collado
Mr. Norman Diaz
Ms. Gisella Elgarresta
Dr. Denio O. Fonseca
Commissioner Wilfredo Gort
Ms. Georgina Q. Hartmann
Ms Aida Levitan
Mr. John Macho
Mr. Cesar H. Odio
Ms. Lucy Pereda
Dr. Manolo J. Reyes
Ms. Belen S. Saborido
Mr. H. James Towey
Mr. Jorge S. Villalba

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Cesar Odio
Joaquin Avino
Betsy Kaplan
Seymore Gelber
Octavio Visiedo
Office of Rep. Deutsch

Arthur Teele
Steve Clark
Raul Martinez
Kathy Rundell
Robert Ingram
Office of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

Maria Elena Torano

Maria Arias Rodham

Afredo Fanjul

Carlos Portes

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Press Guidance

HAITIAN MIGRANT POPULATIONS
As of October 11, 1994

Total Population at Guantanamo Naval Base		10,481
Approved Refugees pending transport to U.S.	55	
In Safehaven Status	10,426	
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	0	
Pending Processing	0	
Aboard USCG and USN Vessels		752
En Route to GTMO for Initial Screening	0	
En Route to Port au Prince from GTMO	752	
Admitted to U.S. (Approved Refugees)		540
Medical Evacuations to U.S.		10
Repatriated		9,909
Repatriated from USNS Comfort	1,138	
Voluntarily Repatriated from GTMO	8,771	
Police recruits moved to Haiti		25
TOTAL INTERDICTIONS		21,717

PRM:HTI-201

Prepared: 10/12/94
09:01

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1994

STATEMENT BY DAVID JOHNSON, ACTING SPOKESMAN

CUBAN MIGRATION TALKS

The United States and Cuba have reached an agreement that will allow a minimum of 20,000 Cubans to migrate legally to the U.S. every year. This agreement will make migration to the United States possible for many Cubans previously not eligible to migrate and speed the departure of those currently on the U.S. immigrant visa waiting list to enter the United States.

Information on how to apply for migration to the United States under this agreement will be announced shortly. This information will be distributed widely both in Cuba and in the United States.

Please do not contact the Department of State, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the United States Interests Section in Havana about migrating under this agreement. An announcement on how to apply will be made as soon as possible.

Joint Communiqué

Representatives of the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba today concluded talks concerning their mutual interest in normalizing migration procedures and agreed to take measures to ensure that migration between the two countries is safe, legal, and orderly.

Safety of Life at Sea

The United States and the Republic of Cuba recognize their common interest in preventing unsafe departures from Cuba which risk loss of human life. The United States underscored its recent decisions to discourage unsafe voyages. Pursuant to those decisions, migrants rescued at sea attempting to enter the United States will not be permitted to enter the United States, but instead will be taken to safe haven facilities outside the United States. Further, the United States has discontinued its practice of granting parole to all Cuban migrants who reach U.S. territory in irregular ways. The Republic of Cuba will take effective measures in every way it possibly can to prevent unsafe departures using mainly persuasive methods.

Alien Smuggling

The United States and the Republic of Cuba reaffirm their support for the recently adopted United Nations General Assembly resolution on alien smuggling. They pledged their cooperation to take prompt and effective action to prevent the transport of persons to the United States illegally. The two governments will take effective measures in every way they possibly can to oppose and prevent the use of violence by any persons seeking to reach, or who arrive in, the United States from Cuba by forcible diversions of aircraft and vessels.

Legal Migration

The United States and the Republic of Cuba are committed to directing Cuban migration into safe, legal and orderly channels consistent with strict implementation of the 1984 joint communiqué. Accordingly, the United States will continue to issue, in conformity with United States law, immediate relative and preference immigrant visas to Cuban nationals who apply at the U.S. Interests Section and are eligible to immigrate to the United States. The United States also commits, through other provisions of United States law, to authorize and facilitate additional lawful migration to the United States from Cuba. The United States ensures that total legal migration to the United States from Cuba will be a minimum of 20,000 Cubans each year, not including immediate relatives of United States citizens. As an additional, extraordinary measure, the United States will facilitate in a one year period the issuance of documentation to permit the migration to the United States of those qualified Cuban nationals in Cuba currently on the immigrant visa waiting

list. To that end, both parties will work together to facilitate the procedures necessary to implement this measure. The two governments agree to authorize the necessary personnel to allow their respective interests sections to implement the provisions of this communique effectively.

Voluntary Return

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed that the voluntary return of Cuban nationals who arrived in the United States or in safe havens outside the United States on or after August 19, 1994 will continue to be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Excludables

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed to continue to discuss the return of Cuban nationals excludable from the United States.

Review of Agreement

The representatives of the United States and the Republic of Cuba agree to meet no later than 45 days from today's announcement to review implementation of this Joint Communique. Future meetings will be scheduled by mutual agreement.

For the Government of
The United States of America:

For the Government of
the Republic of Cuba:

New York, September 9, 1994

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Orleans, LA)

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

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

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

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

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

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release

October 14, 1994

Statement by the Press Secretary

The President today announced a series of immediate humanitarian steps relating to Cubans in safehavens in Guantanamo and Panama.

First, the Attorney General will parole into the United States chronically ill persons and their caregivers who cannot be adequately cared for in the camps.

Second, she will parole into the United States unaccompanied young children now in the safe havens.

Third, she will parole into the United States migrants over 70.

In each case, we will ensure that those paroled in have appropriate sponsors.

Fourth, the Administration will conduct a review of the status of all children in the camps.

Fifth, we have launched a major effort to persuade other countries to accept some of the Cuban migrants.

Sixth, although much remains to be done, significant improvements have been made in the camps including providing better food, inaugurating mail and telephone service, and improving sanitary conditions. Attached is a fact sheet showing the time table for improvements.

The administration shares the deep concern of the Cuban-American community for the well-being of all the Cubans in safehavens. The root cause of these problems is in Cuba. The administration is dedicated to pursuing policies which will lead to a rapid and peaceful movement to democracy in Cuba.

#

FACT SHEET

IMPROVEMENTS AT GUANTANAMO

There are five tiers of improvement categories:

- I. Infrastructure/facilities
- II. Food/clothing/medicine
- III. Personal communications
- IV. Education/recreation
- V. Other/administrative

INFRASTRUCTURE/FACILITIES

Water: Running water is now available in all Haitian and Cuban camps. Water has always been available for consumption, but construction of the last piping system for running water was completed on 9 October. Each migrant is provided safe drinking water and sufficient water for daily hygiene.

Tents: All migrants have shelter, but dust is still a problem in the Cuban camps. As some migrants leave, camp officials can close some camps and build hard stands for other tents going up. The Haitian camps are located on hard surfaces (runways) and dust is not as bad in this location. Many steps have been taken to reduce dust. One measure that has had some success is the spreading of a soil stabilizer, another measure has been to plant surrounding ground cover. These are temporary measures until all tents are hardened to include concrete or wooden flooring. Projected completion of the hardening project is 15 November.

Sanitation facilities: There is currently one latrine for every 30 migrants. Cleaning is now done once every three days; by October 24 cleaning will be done once every day. Plans are now being developed to have permanent latrine facilities. The construction of sewer piping systems is slowed by the small geographic area and by

limited treatment capacity. Follow-on plans include expanding existing treatment facilities.

Camp areas: Each camp has an area for recreation. Half-court basketball and volleyball courts are being constructed, projected completion 24 October. Additionally, baseball diamonds and soccer fields are being built for common use.

FOOD/CLOTHING/MEDICINE

Milk: A preliminary supply of milk has been provided along with specialized milk for babies with digestive problems (*Infamil* with Iron, *Similac*). Follow-on supplies will be provided and sustained.

Food: Every effort is being made to develop a varied menu. There are now enough food stocks to allow the announcement of 2-day menus. Two new kitchens have been built. Each migrant receives 2 hot meals and one MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) per day. Migrants take part in food preparation and as a result of greater food stocks the resulting menu has become more Cuban and Haitian friendly. Examples include the Haitian fare *Paella* and a Cuban recipe for *Arroz con Pollo* on Sundays.

Clothing: Thanks to the efforts of many government and non-government organizations each migrant has spare clothing and shoes and ball-type caps for those that need sun-protection during the day. Over 35,000 pairs of shoes were purchased for the migrants and all have been distributed.

Medicine: There have been no outbreaks/illnesses of any serious nature within the last month. Hygiene is improving daily and preventive care is being developed by camp doctors. There are estimates of up to 250 pregnant women in the camps. Pre-natal and post-natal facilities are being built to assist new and expectant mothers with the care and feeding of their children. Special milk/formula and other infant needs are being stocked.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mail: Limited postcard service has been available through the American Red Cross. A DoD/US Postal Service team traveled to Guantanamo last week to arrange regular letter service to begin in October. Initial service will include only

letter/post card mail. By early November details of package delivery will be announced.

Phones: 95 phone lines have been established solely for use by Cuban and Haitian migrants. All phones are operational.

EDUCATION/RECREATION

Educational facilities/supplies: Primary education is currently provided through the 6th grade level. Supplies for crayons, notebooks and school books in Spanish and Creole were provided with DoD funds.

Newspaper Deliveries: Daily newspaper delivery service should begin on 20 Oct.

Radio Service: There were over 1000 radios supplied to the migrants in September and more are being scheduled for delivery. Additionally, the radios are able to pick up *Radio Marti* during the evening hours and DoD has been producing additional broadcasts through a temporary station called *Radio Esperanza*.

Other Media: Camp leaders are also given the opportunity to produce their own print media for the camps.

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Camp Leadership for the Migrants: Each camp has selected a small group of camp leaders and representatives to voice their concerns over the conditions in the camps. The leaders' recommendations are followed as much as practical. Camp leaders hold regular meetings with migrants in their areas and during these forums give updates from governmental agencies.

Cigarettes: Small shipments of cigarettes have been arriving in Guantanamo during the last two weeks. Other priority items such as milk for babies, clothes, shoes and other food stocks were delivered first. The Administration is working with the Cuban-American community in Miami for a large donation of cigarettes which DOD will arrange to have transported and distributed in the camps.

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Donated Goods/Services: The US Government welcomes all donations of goods and services for the migrants in Guantanamo. The State Department has contracted the services of World Relief to accept and distribute donated goods to the migrants.

To Donate Goods, contact: Peggy Gilbert, World Relief, (914) 268-4135.

To Donate Services, contact: Mr. Guarione Diaz, Ombudsman for Cubans at the Camps, (305) 642-3484.

ANNOUNCEMENT (FOR CUBA AND US)

The U.S. is announcing today steps being taken to implement the September 9 migration agreement with Cuba.

Pursuant to the agreement, the US will allow a minimum of 20,000 Cubans to migrate legally to the US each year. This goal will be met through expanded immigrant visa and refugee processing and the use of the Attorney General's parole authority.

The U.S. will accelerate the immigrant visa issuance process at USINT, consistent with U.S. law. The accelerated scheduling of immigrant visa interviews has already begun. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will intensify outreach to the Cuban-American community to explain opportunities to bring family members from Cuba to the U.S. USINT will intensify its efforts to inform the Cuban public of possible immigration benefits through family members in the U.S.

The United States also will increase the number of refugee admission slots available to Cubans through the U.S. Interests Section (USINT) in Havana to at least 6,000 this year. While eligibility for the in-country program in Havana originally was limited to former political prisoners, application criteria have been expanded significantly. The US will review pending and previously denied refugee cases in order to identify those qualifying under the expanded criteria.

In addition, public interest parole may be offered immediately to unmarried sons and daughters of Cubans issued immigrant visas or granted refugee status, as well as to family members who reside in the same household and are part of the same economic unit as these immigrants or refugees. USINT is in the process of informing those receiving immigrant visas and refugee travel documents of this program.

Also, as a one-time, extraordinary measure, public interest parole will be offered to preference visa petition beneficiaries on the immigrant visa waiting list as of September 9, 1994, and who would not have been eligible to receive an immigrant visa by the end of FY 95 (September 30, 1995). Individuals on this list will be contacted by the USINT in Havana.

Finally, the USG will operate a lottery that will substantially broaden avenues of legal migration for all Cubans, including those without direct family ties to the U.S. Candidates selected through the lottery will be allowed to bring their spouses and minor children with them to the U.S. This process is designed to benefit Cubans with strong reasons to migrate and who can become

self-sufficient. Details of the lottery will be announced in Cuba and the U.S. by November 1st.

The U.S. will devote sufficient personnel and other resources to conduct all refugee, immigrant visa, and parole processing on an accelerated basis. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of State will each have in place five additional officers at USINT on or about October 17; additional local staff already has been hired. A State Department team will arrive in Havana on October 17 to identify new facilities to accommodate the expanded processing.

All Cubans eligible for migration benefits will be screened for medical, criminal, and public charge requirements under U.S. immigration law as applicable.

These programs will be available to Cubans in Cuba proper. All Cubans in safehavens will be fully informed about the programs; in order to participate in them, they must return home. On October 7, a group of 17 Cubans who requested voluntary return were flown from Guantanamo Naval Base to Havana. USINT and the State Department will continue to work with the Cuban government to facilitate the travel of all Cubans under U.S. government protection who wish to go home; no one will be compelled or encouraged to return. Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that no Cuban wishing to return is disadvantaged in any of these programs if unable to do so in a timely fashion.

With regard to Cubans in Guantanamo and Panama, significant efforts are under way to upgrade the facilities and to improve quality of life. We are making substantial progress in hygiene and nutrition and in the delivery of medical, communications, and recreational services. Mail and newspaper delivery soon will be available. The attached fact sheet describes in detail the steps we have taken and those we plan to take in the near future to improve conditions for Cubans under U.S. government protection.

Cuba Legal Migration Program
Qs and A's

I. LOTTERY

Q.: How does one apply for the lottery?

A.: All details of the lottery - how to apply, when to apply, etc. - will be well advertised in the US, Cuba proper, and the safehavens by November 1st. The lottery is designed to offer Cubans who might not qualify under previously existing programs an opportunity to come to the US. We will be looking for people who can be self-sufficient and have manifested an interest in coming to the US.

Q.: Will having family ties be a requirement for selection in the lottery?

No. Legal migration will be available to people with no direct family ties in the United States.

Q.: Will Cubans in safehavens be able to participate in the lottery?

Yes. Cubans in safehavens will have to return home to participate in the lottery, but we will make sure that they do not suffer any disadvantage if they cannot return in a timely fashion. We anticipate that many Cubans in safehavens will meet some of the criteria we are looking for.

II. Refugee Processing

Q.: Who is eligible to qualify for refugee status?

A.: Refugee status in the US may be granted to persons who have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Q.: In what way have the interview criteria been expanded?

A.: Eligibility for the in-country program in Havana originally was limited to former political prisoners. The program now gives priority to Cubans who are (1) former political prisoners; (2) members of persecuted religious minorities; (3) human rights activists; (4) forced labor conscripts during the period 1965-1968; (5) persons deprived of their professional credentials or subjected to other disproportionately harsh or discriminatory

treatment resulting from their perceived or actual political or religious beliefs; and (6) others who appear to have a credible claim that they will face persecution as defined in the United Nations Refugee Convention.

Q.: If a Cuban already has applied for refugee status and did not qualify, can (s)he apply again?

A.: Any person denied refugee status can ask to have his or her case reconsidered on the basis of new information. A Cuban who was denied a refugee interview under the old criteria might be eligible under the new criteria. The USG will review pending and previously denied refugee cases to identify those qualifying under the expanded criteria.

Q.: What about Cubans in safehavens?

A.: If a Cuban chooses to return home and believes that (s)he qualifies for the refugee program, (s)he should contact USINT in Havana for a determination of eligibility. US government representatives in the safehavens will provide general information on the program.

Q.: What about Cubans in safehavens who fear persecution in Cuba if they return?

A.: Our policy is clear: Nobody will be forced or encouraged to return. Persons who fear persecution, like all other Cubans in safehavens, can remain in a safehaven if they so choose. Efforts are continuing to be made to improve quality of life in Guantanamo and Panama. We share the desire to find durable solutions for bona fide refugees in safehavens who fear returning home. For this reason, we also will be exploring with UNHCR alternatives for such people as the situation develops, including voluntary resettlement in third countries.

III. Parole of Additional Family of Refugees and Visa Beneficiaries.

Q.: What is new about the additional family parole?

Typically, immigrants are only allowed to bring in their spouse and minor unmarried children. Under this new program, we are extending the group of family members who can accompany a Cuban issued an immigrant visa or granted refugee status to include: (1) family members who reside in the same household and are part of the same economic unit as the immigrant or refugee; (2) unmarried sons and daughters of the immigrant or refugee regardless of age or place of residence.

Q.: How will this program work?

Cubans to whom it is possible to issue immigrant visas in fiscal year 1995 are being informed by USINT of their new opportunity to bring additional family members with them. The USC will make other efforts to identify and contact possible beneficiaries of this program.

Q.: Can Cubans in safehavens benefit from this program?

Yes, if they choose to return home. Cubans in Guantanamo and Panama will be provided information about this program by US representatives. The USC will try to assist Cubans in safehavens with this program. If a Cuban in a safehaven believes he or she might be eligible under this program, (s)he should contact a USC representative.

IV. Immigrant Visas and Visa Waiting List

Q.: How does one get an immigrant visa?

A.: The U.S. is continuing to issue immigrant visas to qualified Cubans, and relatives in the US are encouraged to file visa petitions on behalf of their family members in Cuba. Visa petition forms (I-130's) are available by calling the INS toll-free number, 1-800-755-0777. They also can be picked up in the US Federal Building in Miami, located at 51 SW 1st Avenue, Room 630, or at any INS office in the United States.

Q.: What is being done with the backlog?

A.: USINT has received names and addresses of all those on the immigrant visa waiting list. Efforts have begun to notify Cubans who are eligible.

Q.: Can Cubans in safehavens benefit from this program?

Yes, if they choose to return home. Cubans in Guantanamo and Panama will be provided information about this program by US representatives. If a Cuban in a safehaven believes that a relative has filed a petition for him or her, and that (s)he might be on the waiting list, (s)he should contact a USC representative.

V. Voluntary Return

Q.: How many Cubans who requested to return have been able to do so?

A.: An initial group of 17 Cubans who chose to go home were returned on October 7. They were flown from Guantanamo to Havana. We are anticipating the return of Cubans who have made the request to proceed on a regular basis.

Q.: How many Cubans have requested to return?

A.: Several hundred

Q.: Will Cubans in safehavens be forced to return?

A.: No. They can remain in the safehavens indefinitely.

Q.: Is the US government encouraging Cubans to return?

A.: No. We have provided Cubans in safehavens full information about their options, including the possibility of going back home or of remaining in the safehavens.

Q.: How can we be sure that Cubans who choose to return will not be persecuted when they do?

A.: As part of the Cuba/US talks, we made clear that people who wish to return should not be subject to negative treatment. These migration talks will be ongoing, and will next be resumed at the end of the month. This is a subject that can and will be monitored.

Q.: If individuals are not cleared for return by the Cuban authorities, what will be their eligibility for migration to the US?

A.: We will do our very best to ensure that individuals who wish to return are able to go home. We also will ensure that all individuals who are eligible to migrate legally to the US will have an opportunity to do so.

VI. Parole (in general)

Q.: Will any conditions be placed on paroled Cubans? Will there be any time limit?

A.: No. They will be paroled into the US for a two-year period. After one year, they will be eligible to apply for permanent residence.

Q.: How many Cubans do you anticipate will be receiving parole?

We will be using a combination of our programs to reach the 20,000 figure in the agreement.

VII. Legal Authority

Q.: What legal authority does the Attorney General have to exercise her parole authority in this way?

A.: Under section 212(d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Attorney General is given the authority, at her discretion, to parole aliens into the US "for reasons deemed strictly in the public interest." Normalizing the immigration flow between Cuba and the US is "strictly in the public interest." The parole program is part of an overall effort to redirect an abnormal flow into a legal one.

Q.: Doesn't such a parole program intrude upon Congress' law-making authority?

A.: No. The purpose of the program is to facilitate a normalization of migration between the two countries. It is perfectly consistent with overall congressional goals to stem irregular migration and promote legal migration.

Q.: Isn't the parole program inconsistent with the 1980 Refugee Act which provides that the AG "may not parole into the US an alien who is a refugee . . . except in compelling, individual circumstances"?

A.: No. People admitted as refugees will not be paroled. The US has operated for a number of years - and will continue to operate - an in-country refugee program in Havana under which several thousand Cubans are admitted into the US each year.

Q.: Why isn't a similar program being established for Haitians?

Historically we have had a special migration relationship with Cuba. We did not regularly parole in and legalize virtually every Haitian who reached our shores. The Cuban Adjustment Act is unique to Cubans. Moreover, we expect conditions that have produced large irregular migration from Haiti to change with the restoration of democratic government.

VIII. Cubans at Krome and Port Isabel

Q.: What are the plans for Cubans in Florida and Texas?

A.: Cubans at Krome and Port Isabel have been placed in normal immigration proceedings.

Q. How many Cubans have been paroled in from Krome and Port Isabelle?

A.: Children and their caregivers have been paroled in.

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Clinton Presidential Records

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