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MEMORA

Post-It* Fax Note 7671		Date 12/15/94	# of pages 2
To SUZANNA VALDEZ	From L. LAUREDO		
Co./Dept.	Co. CORE GROUP		
Phone #	Phone # 305/579-7611		
Fax # 202/452-6218	Fax #		

DATE: December 14, 1994

TO: Suzanna Valdez

FROM: Luis Lauredo - on behalf of the
Cuban-American CORE GROUP

LL

*195
Cuba
"Core"
Lauredo*

The CORE GROUP met yesterday to discuss outstanding issues and course of action. I have been asked to submit to you the following outline of the decisions we arrived at this meeting, as follows:

1. We consider you, Suzanna Valdez, our point person and representative before President Clinton and The White House. You have done an outstanding job under very difficult circumstances and we want to reaffirm our full confidence in you.
2. At our last meeting with President Clinton, our clear short term objectives were to focus on the re-election of Governor Chiles and the realization of the Summit of the Americas. Now that these two goals have been successfully accomplished, we need to redefine our future goals and focus of action.
3. Our purpose is to be the Cuban-American support group for President Clinton, his policies and his re-election campaign. Our role will change from time to time according to circumstances and the President's needs. We identify as our next focus point the Guantanamo/Panama camp situation. In relation to this immediate task, we conclude the following:
 - a) We do not support the creation of a TASK FORCE at this time. We need more time to deliberate on its objective, proposed membership and political cost/benefit analysis.
 - b) The GROUP would like an update on the situation as we begin to refocus. We suggest the following actions be taken:

- Cont. -

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- b)
 - i) We should have a confidential briefing in Washington at the highest policy-making level, in order for the GROUP to fully comprehend the Administration's current policies, as well as provisions for the future.
 - ii) We should conduct a low-keyed non-publicity inspection trip to Guantanamo and Panama to learn first-hand of the conditions at these sites.
- 4. On the Guantanamo/Panama matter, the CORE GROUP was to have received advance briefings on specific actions taken by the Administration in order to have been part of the policy announcements and to insure that President Clinton received due credit. This has been a complete failure. Either through leaks or other means, it seems that information is being revealed by other groups, which keeps us on a reactive mode.
- 5. Also, we would like, if given the opportunity, to have input in policy formation and actual wording of announcements prior to the final decision, rather than being informed after the fact in order for us to support them.
- 6. We understand that it is difficult to be able to achieve unanimous consensus in a diverse group such as ours, and we do apologize for the confusing signals we have been sending. We will strive to reach consensus in important matters in order to be able to submit advice at you upon request. It was agreed by the CORE members that any difference of opinion will be channeled directly through you, not through individual actions with other members of The White House or the President, which only further clouds the situation.

I hope this helps you understand our sense of purpose and plan of action. We would appreciate your comments and advise.

Regards.

LL/en

cc: CORE GROUP