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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	John Podesta to David Gergen, George Stephanopoulos, Mark Gearan et al re: Cuba policy (1 page)	01/22/1993	P1/b(1)
001b. memo	Anthony Lake to President Clinton re: Cuba policy (2 pages)	12/21/1993	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
Mark Gearan
OA/Box Number: 7548

FOLDER TITLE:

Cuba

2016-0920-F

jm1881

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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CIA Tells Clinton He Could Face a Crisis In Cuba if 'Serious Instability' Develops

WASHINGTON INSIGHT

By CARLA ANNE BOBBING

Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency has warned President Clinton that he could face a major crisis in Cuba "virtually at any time."

In a classified "National Intelligence Estimate" issued in August, the CIA warns that with the Cuban economy in free fall, "serious and uncertainties . . . are so acute that significant miscalculations by [Cuban leader Fidel] Castro, a deterioration of his health or plotting in the military could provoke regime-threatening instability at virtually any time."

The report goes on to say that Mr. Castro can be expected to use "whatever force necessary" to hold on to power "even at the risk of a blood bath" and that even if he is overthrown, "the new era will be marred by retributory and other violence."

"Serious instability" on the island, the report concludes, would have "an immediate impact" on the U.S., causing from 30,000 to 80,000 or more Cubans to flee to the U.S. and spurring demands for American military intervention.

Despite this grim news, Mr. Clinton, like his predecessors, seems more concerned about the electoral politics of Florida than with heading off a foreign-policy crisis 90 miles further south.

As a candidate, Mr. Clinton won cash and kudos from the conservative Cuban-American community when he pledged to tighten the economic embargo on Cuba. He has no intention of breaking that pledge now, aides say, especially with Mr. Castro so clearly on the ropes and Mr. Clinton's foreign-policy plate so obviously full.

Lifting the embargo is by no means the only policy choice available to the president. But his politically skittish advisers seem to have little will to try anything else that might lower tensions and help promote a peaceful transition at the cost of infuriating the powerful Cuba lobby. "The political climate right now is: Don't take any chances," says one frustrated U.S. official.

There are plenty of new ideas percolating elsewhere, including inside the Cuban-American community.

A new Cuban-exile organization called Cambio Cubano, or Cuban Change, which is headed by a former political prisoner with impeccable anti-Castro credentials, has called for loosening the embargo in exchange for economic and political reforms. Another group, the Cuban Committee for Democracy, is opening an office in Washington to lobby for an end to what they call the U.S. policy of "isolation and strangulation."

"If there is to be a peaceful change in Cuba, there must be political dialogue"

between Mr. Castro and his opponents, says the committee's president, Marcelino Miyares. The U.S. "should use whatever means it has" to promote that dialogue.

In a new study for the 20th Century Fund, analyst Gillian Gunn calls for the U.S. to encourage political change on the island by softening its rhetoric and seeking closer contacts with a new generation of potentially reform-minded Cubans. Lifting the embargo would come only if Mr. Castro makes serious political reforms.

Even conservative commentators William Ratliff of the Hoover Institution and former Reagan aide Roger Fontaine have called on the administration to lift the economic embargo while refusing any political contact with Mr. Castro's regime. Lifting the embargo would lower tensions and "rob [Mr. Castro] of his American scapegoat and blunt his image," they wrote in a June opinion article in the Washington Post.

Inside the intelligence community, there also is a growing view that lifting the embargo might weaken Mr. Castro politically, while doing little to ameliorate Cuba's desperate economic straits.

U.S. officials and conservative Cuban-Americans believe otherwise. At the same time, officials insist that they aren't — in the words of one — "completely brain dead" when it comes to Cuba. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake has met twice with other top officials to discuss alternative policies in Cuba. And officials who have been around for more than one administration say they are being encouraged to think more freely about Cuba.

But they admit that achieving even a modest change in policy would require a considerable stretch, particularly because the president's political advisers are hoping to win Florida in 1996 and see Cuban-Americans as a critical swing vote.

In the meantime, the administration is making contingency plans for how to cope with a massive flow of refugees should violence erupt on the island. "Basically, what we are doing is waiting for a disaster to happen so we can react," says one official. If the CIA is right, Mr. Clinton may not have to wait too long.

Reply Tony
to see how
to write this?
at least once?
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Tony
Do we need to revise
this? or at least a

B