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Folder Title:

Haiti-Safe Haven, 1994-1995 [5]

Staff Office-Individual:

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Jamie Gorelick to Sandy Berger, re: [Fund] (1 page)	07/17/1994	P5
002a. memo	Jamie S. Gorelick to Samuel Berger, re: [Fund] (2 pages)	07/18/1994	P5
002b. memo	Jamie S. Gorelick to Samuel Berger, re: [Fund] (2 pages)	07/18/1994	P5
003. memo	Tony Lake and Alice Rivlin to the President, re: Funding Haiti Migration/Safe Haven Operations (4 pages)	ca. 1994	P5
004. note	Jamie Gorelick to Sandy Berger, re: [Fund] (1 page)	07/17/1994	P5

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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]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Julia Vadala Taft
President & CEO

*Hand -
safe have*

July 21, 1994

I thought you'd find this of particular interest.

Best regards -

Julia Taft



National Council

Marjorie Craig Benton
Robin Duke
Arvonne Fraser
Dorothy L. Haight
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh
Marion Fennelly Levy
Bradford Matse
Charles H. Percy
Jill Ruckelshaus

InterAction Statement on the Haitian Refugee Crisis

July 21, 1994

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Tatsunori Yamamori

The undersigned members of InterAction are deeply concerned about the mounting political crisis in Haiti which is causing increased numbers of Haitians to flee by boat.

Today we are making an emergency appeal to governments and to individuals to help save Haitian lives. We call for a cooperative, comprehensive, and consistent international strategy to resolve the crisis in Haiti and to protect Haitians fleeing the military dictatorship.

Murder, repression and other human rights violations are escalating daily in Haiti. Over 20,000 Haitians have fled by boat in the past thirty days. Increased abuses and violence are driving Haitians to risk their lives at sea to obtain protection by the international community under international law.

Just as UN member governments and members of the Organization of American States (OAS) worked together to invoke economic sanctions against Haiti's illegal government, so must they work together to provide protection to Haitian boat people.

We support the safe-haven strategy and urge the U. S. Government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to continue to pursue a strategy to protect Haitians in the region while a permanent solution is being sought. We believe safe-haven should be available to all Haitians fleeing persecution, and that safe-haven and the protection of Haitians by the international community should continue until democracy is restored to Haiti.

We acknowledge efforts to improve the "in-country" processing in Haiti, but remain concerned that due to intimidation and violence many Haitians will feel compelled to flee by boat rather than risk retaliation by making their refugee claims known within the country. Nevertheless, we call on other countries to initiate refugee procedures within-Haiti to offer asylum to refugees, thereby alleviating the pressure on Haitian refugees to resort to flight by sea. We also encourage nations to allow Haitians who find themselves outside of Haiti to apply for asylum to the country in which they are residing, or for resettlement in third countries.

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Washington, DC 20036

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(202) 667-4131

Haitians are individuals of conscience exercising their human rights; they should be treated with dignity and compassion. Safe-havens should be operated in the best possible conditions of dignity for the individual and family. They should not be administered anywhere as detention centers.

We wish to thank the governments in the region which have already offered protection for Haitians through safe-havens on their territory. We call on others to become part of the international solution by offering similar protection and safe-havens. In particular, we ask President Endara of Panama to reconsider for humanitarian reasons and extend Panama's protection to Haitians.

While endorsing the creation of safe-havens within the region, we believe that additional capacity to protect Haitians will be necessary in the days ahead. We call on the United States to develop contingency arrangements immediately that will allow temporary safe-havens on American territory to protect Haitians until democracy is restored. And we call on the U. S. Congress to be prepared to consider a supplemental appropriation on an emergency basis as soon as safe-haven plans and arrangements are more clear.

We believe that safe-havens in the region should operate under UNHCR's protection mandate and, to the extent possible, be available to all who flee Haiti in fear. We urge the international community to provide adequate space in safe-havens so that no Haitian need be returned to Haiti until their protection there can be assured.

Gwendolyn Calvert Baker, President and CEO, U. S. Committee for UNICEF
David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World
Yull Celestin, Acting Director, Episcopal Migration Ministries
Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., Executive Director, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
Robert P. DeVecchi, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee
Donald N. Hammond, Vice President, World Relief
Elizabeth Ferris, Director, Church World Service Immigration & Refugee Program
Anthony J. Kozlowski, President and CEO, American Refugee Committee
Le Xuan Khoa, Executive Director, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Frank Lostumbo, President, National Council for International Health
Reverend Robert W. McChesney, S. J., Director, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Lionel Rosenblatt, Executive Director, Refugees International
Reverend Richard Ryscavage, S.J., Executive Director, U. S. Catholic Conference Office of Migration and Refugee Services
Martin Wenick, Executive Vice President, Hebrew Immigration Aid Society
Roger P. Winter, Executive Director, Immigration & Refugee Services of America
Ross Vartian, Executive Director, Armenian Assembly of America

American Council for Voluntary International Action

1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW, SUITE 801, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 PHONE: (202) 667-8227

For Immediate Release
Thursday July 21, 1994

Contact: Mike Kiernan
202/667-8227

Refugee-Aid Team Leaves Monday for Guantanamo; Private Agencies Support Clinton's "Safe-Haven" Policy

State Department officials and private U.S. refugee-assistance agencies agreed today to send agency representatives to Guantanamo Bay to begin implementing social counseling and assistance programs for Haitian refugees there. The non-governmental agency counselors, medical personnel and interpreters are expected to fly from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Guantanamo on Monday, July 25.

The refugee groups also joined other private U.S. humanitarian aid agencies in announcing their support for the Clinton administration's "safe-haven" policy. The policy offers Haitian boat people temporary safety in refugee camps set up around the Caribbean.

Sixteen aid organizations involved in refugee assistance approved a statement that urges the United States and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) "to continue to pursue a strategy to protect Haitians in the region while a permanent solution is being sought."

The statement adds: "We believe safe-haven should be available to all Haitians fleeing persecution, and that safe-haven and the protection of Haitians by the international community should continue until democracy is restored to Haiti."

Agencies agreeing to the statement include the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, Bread for the World, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, International Rescue Committee, World Relief, Church World Service Immigration & Refugee Program, American Refugee Committee, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, National Council for International Health, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, Refugees International, U.S. Catholic Conference Office of Migration and Refugee Services, Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, Immigration & Refugee Services of America and Armenian Assembly of America.

For more information on the statement or the flight to Guantanamo on Monday, contact Mike Kiernan or Jesse Bunch at InterAction at 202-667-8227.

-- end --

JUL-14-94 THU 13:15

SWARTZ&ASSOC. 2023281313

FAX NO. 202 797 9856

P. 01/18

RICK SWARTZ & ASSOCIATES, INC.

1869 Park Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010
Telephone:(202)328-1313 Fax:(202)797-9856

FAX

DATE:

7/14/94

TO:

Eric Schwartz

OF:

FAX #:

395-1199

FROM:

Rick Swartz

RE:

Immediate Response Requested:

Yes

No

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE:

18

MESSAGE:

NEWS FROM THE Committee



The American Jewish
Committee

Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022
212 751-4000

David B. Saltman
Director of Communications

FOR RELEASE AFTER
12:00 NOON,
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1994

Contact: Richard T. Foltin
Jeffrey Weill
(202) 785-4200

The American Jewish Committee protects the rights and freedoms of Jews the world over; combats bigotry and anti-Semitism and promotes human rights for all; works for the security of Israel and deepened understanding between Americans and Israelis; advocates public policy positions rooted in American democratic values and the perspectives of the Jewish heritage; and enhances the creative vitality of the Jewish people. Founded in 1906, it is the pioneer human-relations agency in the U.S.

AJC SUPPORTS SAFE HAVEN POLICY AS A "STEP FORWARD" IN PROTECTING HAITIANS

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 13, 1994... The following statement was issued today by the American Jewish Committee:

The American Jewish Committee supports the Clinton Administration's decision to provide safe havens at several locations around the Caribbean for Haitians expressing a fear of persecution and a need for protection. This is a step forward in protecting Haitians fleeing military terror.

Of course, it is essential that this new policy be carried out in a fair and effective manner, with sufficient dedication of resources -- and cooperation from the nations in which safe havens may be located -- so as to make it more than an empty gesture.

The new U.S. policy should not eclipse other substantial concerns. There remain, for instance, grave questions under current circumstances as to the viability of in-country refugee processing for Haitians seeking refuge in the United States. Further, the recent reprehensible ultimatum by the Haitian military regime to U.N. and O.A.S. human rights monitors to leave the country stands as a demonstration of the urgent need for the international community to come to terms with Haiti's political crisis.

ABA A M E R I C A N B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Carol Wolchok
Phone: 202/331-2268

STATEMENT BY R. WILLIAM IDE III
President, American Bar Association
Concerning Haitian Refugee Policy

The Administration announced last week that it will offer safe haven to Haitian boat people who are fleeing tyranny in Haiti.

We understand that the current policy is to allow anyone who believes that his or her physical safety is endangered to remain in a refugee camp in the region until conditions in Haiti improve. Individuals who request return to Haiti and people who the INS, in consultation with the UNHCR, determines are serious criminals will be repatriated.

We are encouraged by these developments. For nearly three years, the Association urged Presidents Bush and Clinton to stop the automatic repatriation policy that put thousands of lives at risk.

In particular, we believe that the involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an important factor in ensuring that no refugee is involuntarily returned to Haiti and that the Haitians are treated with dignity and compassion and have their humanitarian and health needs met at the safe haven sites.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National Coalition for HAITIAN REFUGEES

Joelyn McCalla
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 14, 1994

Contact: Margaret Summers
(202) 544-0004, x 14

STATEMENT BY JOCELYN McCALLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL COALITION FOR HAITIAN REFUGEES ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S NEW HAITIAN REFUGEE POLICY

We praise the Clinton Administration's new Haitian refugee policy as a step forward, but we caution that this safe haven policy requires an aggressive international push to settle Haiti's political crisis.

We strongly support the safe haven policy because it goes a long way toward protecting Haitians fleeing military terror. We understand that everyone expressing a fear of persecution and a need for protection will henceforth qualify for safe haven. We also understand that the only Haitians to be repatriated to Haiti will be criminals and those who express a willingness to return to Haiti instead of going into any of the third countries. These are elements of a policy that we can live and that we are prepared to work with.

We remained concerned, however, about the viability of in-country refugee processing under current circumstances. The Administration has said that it is the only alternative open to Haitians seeking refuge in the United States. Yet hundreds granted refugee status lie in wait in Haiti. Their lives are threatened. Unless the U.S. takes the measures necessary to get them out of Haiti as quickly as it can, in-country refugee processing will continue to look like a nightmare for those whose lives are endangered. Other steps needed to make the in-country program a real success include significantly beefing up the Immigration Service staff and broadening the criteria that make Haitians eligible for refuge in the United States. As they currently stand, the criteria are too restrictive.

We are also concerned that independent monitors representing nongovernmental organizations have not been given the opportunity to observe the safe haven interviews on Guantanamo, and to certify for themselves that Haitians are not being returned against their will. To protect the integrity of the process, the Coalition is calling for the participation of such independent monitors. Additionally, we believe that those Haitians who are granted temporary safe haven should be permitted to apply for refugee status at a later stage, if and when involuntary repatriations resume.

Finally, we believe that the U.S., together with the international community, has the obligation to come to terms with Haiti's political crisis quickly. Haiti cannot afford another year of trade sanctions, nor can it continue to survive in this political vacuum. The results of doing nothing today will be that we end up with a far bigger refugee problem in the future. An aggressive international push is in order.

#

Founded in 1982, the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees works to protect the rights of Haitian asylum-seekers in accordance with American and international law, and to promote compliance with human rights standards in Haiti. **TO SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS WITH (MR.) JOCELYN McCALLA ON HAITIAN REFUGEE POLICY, CONTACT MARGARET SUMMERS, (202) 544-0004, x 14.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 1994

CONTACT: Kathy Parrent
212-944-9800, ext. 424

ACLU STATEMENT ON SAFE HAVEN FOR HAITIAN REFUGEES

LAURA MURPHY LEE, Director, Washington National Office
LUCAS GUTTENTAG, Director, Immigrants' Rights Project

"The ACLU expresses cautious support for the Clinton Administration's revised policy of providing "safe haven" to fleeing Haitian refugees. We enthusiastically commend the Administration for abandoning the policy of conducting shipboard interviews at which interdicted Haitians were required to prove their eligibility for refugee status on-the-spot. In light of the current human rights situation in Haiti, including this week's expulsion of the United Nations/OAS human rights monitoring mission, we believe that all fleeing Haitians should be offered safe haven that none should be involuntarily repatriated to Haiti.

"However, in the last few days, a large number of Haitians are reported to have "voluntarily" left Guantanamo to return to Haiti. This raises serious questions about the Administration's safe haven policy. Without access by independent non-governmental observers to the Guantanamo Naval Base, we cannot determine whether the decision to return to Haiti is truly voluntary, whether the Haitians at Guantanamo understand their options, and whether conditions at the Guantanamo Naval Base have the effect of forcing Haitians to choose between persecution in Haiti and imprisonment under deplorable conditions at Guantanamo.

"The Administration has repeatedly assured non-governmental organizations that its handling of Haitian refugees will be "transparent" and open. We call upon the Administration to allow non-governmental human rights and refugee organizations to have immediate access to all Haitians held at Guantanamo. Independent groups, who are not affiliated with national or international governmental entities, must be allowed to observe the process, to evaluate conditions at Guantanamo, to meet with all Haitians held there, and to consult with any who are denied safe haven or are deemed to have chosen voluntary return.

"The ACLU also notes that Haitians who have fled and been taken to safe haven sites should have the opportunity to obtain resettlement as refugees in the United States. Haitians must be given equal access to the asylum and resettlement process and must not be excluded simply because they have been forced to flee their country by boat."

--endit--

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STATEMENT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA ON SAFE HAVEN POLICY

Amnesty International USA commends the Clinton Administration for reversing its policy of forcible repatriation of Haitian refugees. Given the continuing human rights violations as well as the recent expulsion of the UN/OAS International Civilian Mission by the military authorities in Port au Prince, the policy of providing safe havens is a welcome step. In reversing the policy of summary repatriations, the Government of the United States has finally put its actions in conformity with the minimum requirements set forth by international law pertaining to refugee protection.

Human rights violations by the Haitian military authorities and their paramilitary allies continues to be a matter of grave concern. There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of people arbitrarily detained, tortured and ill-treated, and extrajudicially executed in this past year. There has also been a marked increase in "disappearances" and the rape of friends and relatives of President Aristide's supporters.

Just a few weeks ago, Amnesty International issued an urgent action appeal on behalf of Janne Toussaint, a twenty-four year old political activist and wife of Levis Toussaint, who was last seen being taken away by armed men, some in military uniforms, on June 19. Like many, she was singled out for her opposition to the military regime as well as for being married to an active opponent of the military regime. Indeed, it is the widespread nature of violations such as this one that have led the organization to consistently oppose the summary repatriation of Haitians interdicted in the high seas by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Amnesty International USA recognizes that the United States Embassy is the only embassy processing Haitian asylum seekers in Port au Prince. However, Amnesty International USA has continuing concerns with this process. Given that Port au Prince is the only place Haitians can now seek asylum in the United States, Amnesty International USA would like to monitor this process to ensure it is fair. Because of this, Amnesty International USA is currently engaged in discussions with Administration officials in order to monitor the in-country processing.

Amnesty International was denied access to the screening process in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base under the Bush Administration. We hope the Clinton Administration will reverse that position as well and allow monitoring of the in-country processing.

NJCRAC NEWS

**National Jewish Community
Relations Advisory Council**

443 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016.7322

212.684.6950
212.686.1353 Fax

NJCRAC STATEMENT ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF TEMPORARY SAFE HAVEN FOR HAITIAN REFUGEES

July 14, 1994

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) believes the recently announced change in the U.S. government's policy regarding temporary safe haven for Haitian refugees is a positive move which seeks in a humane and responsible manner to protect those in need of rescue.

The organized Jewish community has traditionally supported policies which provide haven to refugees fleeing persecution, has called continually for full and fair processing of all asylum claims, and has consistently opposed forced repatriation of Haitians. We welcomed the Administration's earlier announcement that it would end forced repatriation, and we called at that time for the establishment of regional safe haven sites.

We believe the policy of temporary safe haven is necessary at this time to protect Haitians fleeing military terror and as a temporary measure until democracy in Haiti is restored. We urge the Administration to maintain those policies consistent with its obligations to uphold international standards of refugee protection. -30-

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, comprised of 13 national and 117 community agencies, is the national coordinating, planning and advisory body for the field of Jewish community relations in the United States.



LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

122 C Street NW, Suite 300
Washington DC 20004-2172
202/783-7509

STATEMENT BY RALSTON DEFFENBAUGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE ON UNITED STATES POLICY ON HAITIAN REFUGEES

We join the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees in strongly supporting the Clinton Administration's policy of promoting safe haven for Haitian refugees.

The Administration is to be praised for having reversed its previous policy, inherited from the Bush Administration, of forcibly returning refugees to Haiti. By rescuing Haitian refugees and arranging safe haven for them, the United States again acts consistently with the humane and time-honored principles of international refugee law. This American leadership is important not only for Haitians but for the positive example it sets for the protection of refugees around the world.

Those countries which have to date opened their territories to Haitian refugees are to be commended and thanked. We call upon all the governments of the region, including the United States, to offer protection and temporary safe haven on their territories, until democratic rule can be restored in Haiti. No one should be compelled to return to Haiti until their protection there can be assured. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has played and continues to play a vital role in upholding these principles and in negotiating a regional solution.

As we have stated together with our voluntary agency partners, Haitians are individuals of conscience exercising their human rights. They should be treated at all times with dignity and compassion. Safe havens should be operated in this spirit; they must not be allowed to be administered as detention centers. There must be open access to the press, to international observers, and to non-governmental human service organizations. We are especially concerned about access to and professional services for unaccompanied children, victims of torture and sexual abuse, and other particularly vulnerable refugees.

New York, July 14, 1994

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICAS

Formerly Americas Watch

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George Soros

Alfred Stepan

Rose Styron

Jorge Valls

Washington, July 8, 1994

The Hon. William Gray III,
 Special Advisor to the President
 Haiti Working Group
 Department of State
 2201 C Street NW
 Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Special Advisor Gray:

We are writing to thank you for yesterday's detailed briefing describing your efforts to establish temporary safe havens in the Caribbean region for Haitian refugees fleeing by boat. As you know, we have long advocated the use of temporary safe havens as part of a comprehensive response to the refugee crisis from both a legal and humanitarian perspective.

We are greatly encouraged by your description of the screening mechanisms currently being developed, in conjunction with the UNHCR, to offer safe haven to interdicted Haitians requesting such protection. We certainly understand the difficulty of the task facing you and share your disappointment at Panama's decision not to provide space for housing Haitian refugees. We hope that you will continue to insist on international cooperation to meet the challenge of Haiti's refugee crisis.

We are also very pleased with your assurances that Haitians will be counseled by the UNHCR at Guantánamo or other land-based locations under conditions which will permit them to consider fully their options. At the same time, we would like to express our lingering concern over the nature of the questioning used to screen Haitians seeking safe haven. We support the notion that detected criminals or human rights violators should be considered ineligible for international protection. However, we would be wary of attempts to screen out so-called "economic migrants" on the basis of information elicited during an abbreviated questioning process. Although it is clear that you expect only a minority of Haitians to be excluded, we

(page two)

believe that no Haitian should be involuntarily repatriated unless they have had a fair opportunity to state their claim for refugee status.

In-country processing continues to be described by the Administration as the safest way for Haitians fleeing persecution to seek asylum. We strongly differ with this assessment based on our ongoing monitoring of the program. Restrictive eligibility criteria mean that the majority of Haitians wishing to apply are denied an interview. There have been staff draw-downs and transfers that have adversely affected the program's capacity to adjudicate asylum claims. In addition, successful applicants are currently stranded and in danger due to the suspension of most commercial air traffic. We have received information about at least three cases in which such approved asylum applicants have been persecuted while awaiting departure from Haiti. These and other problems with the program must be addressed before in-country processing can be considered a viable alternative for many asylum seekers.

Finally, while we understand the complexities involved in initiating screening of interdicted Haitians, we were disappointed that our request to monitor the proceedings aboard the USNS Comfort was not acted upon. In view of the policy change, we would like to renew our request to visit Guantánamo and other locations where screening for transfer to safe havens will be conducted in order to monitor the process first-hand.

We thank you again for your thorough briefing and look forward to discussing these matters further as the new policy develops.

Sincerely,

Juan E. Méndez
General Counsel

cc: Eric Schwartz

RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER OF REFORM JUDAISM

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 14, 1994

CONTACT: STEVEN SIRBU

(202) 387-2800

Jewish Leader Commends Clinton Administration Policy On Haitian Safe Havens

Statement of Rabbi David Saperstein
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Religious Action Center
pursues social justice and
religious liberty by
mobilizing the American
Jewish community and
serving as its advocate
in the nation's capital

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Rabbi David Saperstein
Director and Counsel

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg
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Chairperson
Commission on Social Action
of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Eric Yaffe
Director
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of Reform Judaism

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National Association of
Temple Administrators,
National Association of
Temple Educators,
National Federation of
Temple Brotherhoods,
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods,
North American Federation
of Temple Youth

My name is Rabbi David Saperstein and I stand here today on behalf of the Reform Jewish Movement, representing 1.5 million Reform Jews across North America. As a Jew, as a person of conscience, I speak to you today to applaud the Clinton Administration on its recent decision to create safe havens for Haitians fleeing the oppression of the military regime which has been illegitimately controlling Haiti for 3 years.

The Book of Numbers, chapter 35 (vv. 9-12), mandates that we create cities of refuge for those who commit crimes unintentionally and fear retribution. How much more so must we protect those who have committed no crime, yet still fear for their lives because their government is in constant violation of the commandment not to bring death on the innocent (Exodus 23:7).

As Jews we are commanded to pursue justice (Deuteronomy 16:20) and are forbidden to "stand idly by the blood of [our] neighbor" (Leviticus 19:16); this is to say that we are enjoined to help those who are suffering around us. Jewish history is marked by the saga of the exodus and the tragedies that have befallen millions of our brothers and sisters over the centuries who have been denied protection and forced back to danger. As it was for the Jews in 1939 sent back on the ship St. Louis from our shores to Europe, so it has been for too many Haitians these past years.

We as a community know that, ultimately, nothing less than the full restoration of democracy in Haiti will bring freedom and safety to the Haitian people. We recognize there is much work to do in achieving this ultimate goal. But we gather today to hail the creation of these safe havens as a major step forward in securing the human rights of all Haitians. We commend the Administration for easing the standard necessary for our protection from a "well-founded" fear to a "credible" fear of persecution. Most of all, we commend the Administration because safe havens are a vast improvement over the

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previous policy of involuntary repatriation. This is not to say, however, that our community does not have concerns regarding the Administration's policy. We prefer to see the current restrictions on in-country asylum processing loosened (and we are encouraged by reports of significant increases in approvals this past week) and to see our borders opened to those who need to come to the United States for protection.

We believe that freedom and human rights worldwide are strengthened when the United States takes leadership to provide asylum and temporary safe haven to refugees who flee oppression. The Clinton Administration's decisions regarding Haitians and other people in need of protection have encouraged and must continue to encourage other nations to provide asylum and challenge the recent trends worldwide of growing xenophobia, blind nationalism, ethnic hatred, and antisemitism that so threaten the values that our nation cherishes.

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Rabbi David Saperstein is Director and Counsel of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Washington-based social action office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). The UAHC and CCAR represent 1.5 million Reform Jews and 1700 Reform rabbis in 850 congregations throughout the United States and Canada.

**Migration and Refugee Services**

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July 14, 1994

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**Church Agency Terms "Appropriate" New Policy
of Temporary Safe Haven for Haitians**

Washington -- The Clinton Administration "seems now to be trying to craft a humane response to a very difficult problem" by seeking regional safe havens for Haitian boat people, according to the top official of the United States Catholic Bishops' refugee agency.

Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark and chairman of the bishops' committee that oversees the work of the Office of Migration and Refugee Services, said he was pleased with the Administration's decision to apply safe haven criteria when deciding who could be housed at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. The Administration has said it would only send back to Haiti those who, after undergoing screening, have been determined to have fled for "frivolous" reasons or reasons of "personal convenience." Additionally, those who have passed the screening process can also volunteer to return.

"We fear that persons not meeting the safe haven criteria could still be at risk if returned to Haiti, but we also appreciate the very real constraints placed on the Administration if the outflow of boat refugees continues at present levels," said Archbishop McCarrick.

The Bishops' Committee on Migration issued a May 23rd statement saying they were encouraged by the President's announcement on May 8th that he was

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rescinding the unacceptable policy of interdiction and automatic forcible return of Haitian boat people. The Bishops consider the new policy of providing temporary asylum in regional safe havens an appropriate *interim* response which further broadens protections offered to the boat people.

The bishops insisted, however, the safe havens must:

- involve the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the greatest extent possible;
- provide humane conditions of detention, meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the refugees, and assure access to the refugees for pastoral care;
- not be for an indefinite period of time;
- provide that, should detention in the safe haven facilities become extended, the Administration will reconsider for acceptance the refugee claims of those Haitians who would qualify under the 1951 refugee convention and the 1967 protocol on refugee status.

"Ultimately," Archbishop McCarrick concluded, "the best hope for Haiti is an amelioration of the conditions that prompted refugees to undertake their flight by boat in the first place. Restoration of democracy in Haiti and a basic respect for the human rights and dignity of all Haitians must be the goal of U.S. policy. All other measures to deal with Haitian boat people are interim, at best, but still must be carried out in a humane fashion."

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 1994

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FROM THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

SAFE HAVEN OPTION: NGO PARTICIPATION ESSENTIAL

"Haiti's expulsion of the OAS/UN human rights monitors and the Air France announcement that it will join in the international boycott of commercial flights out of Haiti place in great doubt the viability of in-country refugee processing directly from within Haiti as an alternative to boat escape," said Bill Frelick, senior policy analyst with the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR). "Deteriorating human rights conditions in Haiti make the success of the safe haven option for boat refugees absolutely critical."

The current U.S. policy of providing temporary safe haven to all interdicted Haitians who express a fear of return is a marked improvement over the previous procedure of ship-board refugee adjudication, in which roughly two-thirds of interdicted Haitians were forcibly returned to Haiti. However, the credibility of the new procedure rests fundamentally on two criteria:

- 1) the informed, voluntary consent of each individual who chooses to return to Haiti rather than remain in a safe haven camp; and
- 2) decent and humane conditions in the safe haven camp(s).

"Our support of safe haven is not unqualified," said Frelick. "NGOs must have access to Guantánamo to make an impartial and independent judgment that Haitians are fully informed of their options and of the consequences of their decisions, that there is no coercion in the decision whether to stay or to return, that living conditions support the needs of the Haitian refugees, and that U.S. authorities respect their human dignity." Thus far, the U.S. government has not permitted any nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to visit Guantánamo to observe the counseling and screening of new arrivals or to assess living conditions for those who have opted for safe haven.

"Although we understand that there is a screening procedure based on a liberally interpreted 'credible fear' standard for boat people who choose the safe haven option, NGOs need to be completely satisfied that no one fearing return to generalized conditions of violence and misery is barred from temporary protection and assistance," said Frelick. "USCR would prefer that 'credible fear' screening of

boat people be dropped entirely, recognizing that those who left with the intention of immigrating to the United States or for frivolous reasons will opt to return voluntarily once they realize that they will not be admitted to the United States."

Nongovernmental agencies not only need to be present to monitor conditions at Guantánamo, but also to assist operationally to make safe havens a viable option. Many NGOs have valuable experience in refugee camps worldwide, and could provide important services. Beyond the basic requirements for decent shelter, food, clothing, medical care, sanitation, and security, NGOs can be particularly helpful in providing critical social services, such as counseling, education, and recreation. The NGO presence is important for building camp morale, to ensure that the people are treated as refugees, rather than prisoners, and that, for example, families are allowed to live together, that the camp population be self-managing to the maximum extent possible through democratic decision-making, and that the military presence be minimized to the extent dictated by camp security.

The NGO presence is important, finally, because of what it represents to the American public. "The American public needs to be assured that our government--which has a dreadful track record in its treatment of Haitian refugees and asylum seekers--is now acting responsibly and humanely," said Frelick. "The U.S. government has not earned the right to be trusted to treat Haitians fairly. The nongovernmental sector must be allowed in now."

Ultimately, even a well-run refugee camp is a temporary solution. Frelick said, "Voluntary repatriation for true refugees can only be accomplished when the threat to their safety upon return is removed. Depending on the outcome in Haiti, the United States must be prepared, finally, to provide a permanent solution--resettlement--on behalf of any refugees who are determined to have a well-founded fear of ever returning to Haiti. That decision need not be made now, but it nevertheless is a principle that must underlie the use of safe haven as a temporary expedient."

The U.S. Committee for Refugees is a private, nongovernmental organization that has defended the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the United States and throughout the world since 1958.



IMMIGRATION LAW NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 1994

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CLINTON'S NEWEST HAITIAN POLICY IS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Washington, D.C. . . .The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) thinks that the Clinton Administration's policy of offering safe haven to Haitians fleeing Haiti is a step in the right direction. The recent dramatic escalation of violence and repression in Haiti, coupled with this week's expulsion of UN Human Rights Monitors, makes clear to the world that the Haitian people desperately need protection until their democratically elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide can be returned to Haiti to restore the rule of law.

"In order for a safe haven policy to truly protect those who need it, Haitians must be assured that all those who fear return to Haiti will be afforded safety and comfort", stated Jeanne A. Butterfield, AILA Senior Policy Analyst. Any "voluntary repatriation" must be truly voluntary--the choice between remaining indefinitely in a military concentration camp under armed guard and risking return to persecution unfortunately smacks of coercion."

"We urge the U.S. to come quickly to agreement with UNHCR to allow that UN body to make any final determination to return a refugee involuntarily to Haiti, based on prior criminal convictions or a history of persecuting others. These should be

--more--

AILA Haitian Statement/2-2-

the sole grounds for refusing someone protection," Butterfield stated.

Although, according to Butterfield, the new policy will protect more Haitians than any previous one, this initiative should not become a substitute for continued refugee determinations, with access to legal counsel and procedural protections. "We cannot accept a situation where Cubans picked up on the high seas are brought immediately to the U.S. and given automatic asylum, while Haitians are whisked off to some military tent city where they will languish for months or years without the opportunity to show that they indeed faced persecution in Haiti. That double standard is racist, pure and simple."

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May 26, 1994, Thursday, Final Edition

Haiti - Safe haven

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A30

LENGTH: 955 words

HEADLINE: Haitian Policy Is Tied To Math and Morality;
Critics Decry White House Fear of Exodus

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Roberto Suro, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

In seeking to implement quickly a new program for processing Haitian boat people and answer its critics, the Clinton administration is relying on a set of calculations that involve a peculiar mix of mathematics and morality.

Current plans call for facilities that can handle as many as 5,000 Haitians at a time, according to a defense policy official. But administration officials insist that an operation on that scale can only succeed if they rapidly decide who is eligible for refugee status and then quickly return the rest to Haiti.

If they do not send back those who fail to qualify, officials insist, there will be a mass exodus.

A nightmare scenario underlies both the administration's planning process and its argument against more lenient treatment of refugees. It goes something like this: Encouraged by hope that they might get a permanent home outside Haiti, thousands of Haitians set out to sea. They overwhelm refugee facilities. Eventually a shipwreck kills hundreds.

Officials insist that this gruesome vision lies at the heart of their refusal to consider proposals to create a safe haven for everyone fleeing Haiti, whether or not they meet the strict tests for refugee status. In recent days the safe haven idea has drawn widening support from civil rights organizations, refugee and church groups, as well as some members of Congress. Most argue for erecting a haven at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

Explaining why the administration has rejected these suggestions, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said yesterday, "It has been our concern that the creation of a so-called safe haven might encourage people to use very unsafe means of migration to try to arrive at a safe haven."

The administration's critics, who might want to minimize the number of potential refugees, contend that the White House is using the nightmare scenario to avoid taking necessary steps.

"They have talked themselves into fearing a mass exodus, and now they are trying to talk everybody else into it as a way of justifying inaction," said Jocelyn McCalla, executive director of the National Coalition of Haitian Refugees.

At the heart of this debate is what immigration experts call the "magnet effect" produced by different options for handling Haitian refugees. While all agree that more generous policies would draw more people, there are wide disagreements on how many would come and how quickly they would arrive.

The administration is operating on an assessment that anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 people would be drawn to a safe haven if none were to be sent back, and that they might arrive at a rate of 1,500 a day, a source said.

Shep Lowman, director of refugee affairs for the U.S. Catholic Conference, argues that such numbers are exaggerated. He noted that when the United States operated a modified form of safe haven at Guantanamo for eight months after the Haitian military takeover in 1991, the Coast Guard picked up an average of about 5,000 people a month. Over many months, Lowman estimated, the population of such a camp could reach 50,000 people.

Other advocates, such as McCalla, put the number even lower, saying that fewer than 20,000 people would show up if the United States created a safe haven.

The Pentagon, which has virtually vetoed the use of Guantanamo again, puts the refugee capacity of the naval base at 12,500 people, an administration official said. Even if double that number fit on the base, the official said, it would fill up unless Haiti's military government were quickly ousted.

Then, the administration might have no choice but to shelter Haitians on U.S. soil, an administration official said. That could create a political crisis for the White House during a period of high anti-immigration sentiment.

Searching for a policy that met humanitarian needs while not creating an uncontrollable magnet, President Clinton abruptly announced on May 8 that the United States would halt its policy of automatically returning all boat people intercepted by the Coast Guard to Haiti and instead would create some kind of processing facility where Haitians could apply for refugee status. Those rejected -- and Clinton warned that they would be the overwhelming majority -- still would be sent back.

More than two weeks later, the policy has yet to be implemented, and the Coast Guard has returned more than 1,200 boat people to a regime the administration denounces as blood-soaked. Administration officials defend the delay, arguing they must avoid a nightmare scenario even for the limited form of refuge envisioned in the new policy.

"In humanitarian terms, it would be morally irresponsible to create a large magnet by effecting this change in policy before it can be fully implemented," said a senior administration official. "Lives are at stake."

This view finds some support from immigration experts. "There is going to be a very substantial bubble in the number of people up front, and that is where you cannot afford to make any mistakes," said Demetrios Papademetriou, director of the immigration policy program at the Carnegie Endowment.

"Any processing facility has to be more than big enough to handle the initial rush or you could have a disaster," he said.

The Washington Post, May 26, 1994

But some advocates argue that only the refugees themselves can decide whether to risk life and limb for a chance to leave Haiti.

"The idea that it would be morally incorrect to allow Haitians the opportunity to seek asylum because it would put them in danger is very paternalistic," Lowman said. "That kind of thinking would paralyze refugee operations all over the world. I'm sorry, that is a decision you have to leave to the refugee. They are aware of the dangers of the sea."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 26, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 7 STORIES

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May 10, 1994, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A3

LENGTH: 890 words

HEADLINE: Dealing With Several Crises at Once;
Clinton Tries to Address Haiti's Refugees, Its Rulers and Its Democracy

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Roberto Suro, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Every U.S. president since Gerald R. Ford has faced a Haitian refugee crisis, but none has set such conflicting goals or has tried to satisfy as many different pressure groups as President Clinton.

Clinton, unlike any of his predecessors, is trying to do two things at once with Haiti. He is trying to staunch a refugee influx even as he moves ever deeper into a confrontation with Haiti's rulers.

The difficulties of managing these two tracks was apparent in the president's announcement of the new initiative Sunday. On the one hand he denounced Haiti's military rulers as bloodstained tyrants, but on the other he said the vast majority of people fleeing the island would not qualify for political asylum.

Domestically, he is also working two fronts at once. He has modified the policy of repatriating Haitians interdicted at sea in order to stifle the protests of black leaders and others who have vocally demanded fair treatment for Haitian refugees. At the same time, he has said that the policy change will not produce a great new influx of Haitians so as not to aggravate public opinion in Florida, which is considered strongly anti-immigration.

Finally, none of Clinton's predecessors had to manage a Haiti policy while a democratically elected, sitting president of Haiti was living in Washington. In exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide has sometimes shown a greater ability to influence events in the United States by shaping political opinion here than he can in Haiti.

The first test of Clinton's ability to satisfy all these competing demands will come a few weeks from now in the Caribbean Sea.

Having promised that the United States will process fleeing Haitians aboard ships as a way of offering them greater protection from the military regime, the administration must deliver a logistically complex naval and humanitarian operation in a relatively short amount of time.

But one day after the president announced the broad outlines of the policy, a senior official involved in developing the details of the operation said, "We've got options and options but so far no specifics whatsoever, none. Heck, we only learned what the deal was going to be this morning."

Part of the difficulty occurs because the United States has no fixed method for processing refugees. Instead, with every crisis it has come up with a different solution. At different times large numbers of Haitians have been processed in Florida, aboard Coast Guard cutters, at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba and in Haiti itself.

Acceptance rates have varied greatly from one operation to another. During the late 1980s, for example, the United States admitted more than 80 percent of all refugees fleeing a government in Nicaragua the Reagan administration opposed while admitting less than 5 percent of those from El Salvador, which had a government the U.S. supported. In effect, an administration can design a policy to be more or less generous to potential applicants depending on its intentions and ideology.

The challenge facing the Clinton administration is to develop a policy that satisfies a variety of interest groups with conflicting aims, and much of its success or failure will be in the details of implementation.

For example, seemingly small changes in the way applicants are processed in Haiti this spring have tripled the acceptance rates. "We began working much more actively with human rights groups in Haiti, encouraging them to refer people who seemed to have strong cases," a State Department official said. For the first time the United States widely circulated a list spelling out specific categories of people who would be considered eligible for refugee processing.

As a result, the State Department official said, acceptance rates went from an average of between 6 percent and 8 percent to 19 percent.

In addition applicants in Haiti are now able to receive assistance from voluntary organizations when they fill in their initial applications for refugee status and again when they prepare for interviews for those who get further along in the process. Also the Haitians have the right to ask for a review of their decisions both at the preliminary stage and after their cases are decided.

Clinton defended and praised the in-country processing system even as he moved on to other options, and as a result it is likely to become the standard against which his new policy is measured.

However, a 19 percent acceptance rate could alarm many in Florida if the refugee flow becomes as large as it did in the aftermath of the 1991 military coup, when an average of 5,000 people a month were fleeing. And, while refugee advocates will demand it, providing full assistance from voluntary organizations and some form of review process might prove a logistical nightmare aboard a ship.

Finally, the administration will have to find a means of dealing with the dilemma of refugees who test positive for the virus that causes AIDS. Currently all those who qualify for admission in Haiti are tested, a state department official said, and those who test positive for the virus must wait until a U.S. sponsor is found who will guarantee the refugee's medical needs will be met.

No decision has been made about what will happen if such cases arise aboard the U.S. ships that will soon begin processing Haitian refugees.

The Washington Post, May 10, 1994

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 12, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 4 OF 7 STORIES

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May 21, 1994, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A1

LENGTH: 970 words

HEADLINE: U.N. to Assist U.S. On Haiti Refugees;
Commissioner to Help Process Boat People

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Roberto Suro, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

The United Nations high commissioner for refugees has agreed to participate in the processing and resettlement of Haitian boat people seeking entry to the United States or other countries, the White House announced yesterday.

The move gives an important boost to the Clinton administration's new Haiti policy by lending it the credibility of the world's foremost refugee agency. U.S. officials expect the agency will serve as a diplomatic ally as the United States seeks help from other countries in handling the Haitians. In the processing, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) will provide counsel to the refugees, technical assistance to U.S. officials and overall monitoring of the screening, the White House statement said.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of Haitians picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard recently. Over the past five days, 747 boat people have been intercepted and immediately returned to Haiti, including 148 yesterday, Coast Guard officials said. Had the administration's new policy been in place, those aspiring immigrants would have been entitled to apply for asylum before being sent back.

In comments released by the White House, U.N. refugee commissioner Sadako Ogata promised "to be as helpful as possible" as the administration confronts the "substantial challenges" of developing a processing system for Haitian refugees "that is characterized by fairness."

Offering a warm endorsement of the administration's intentions, the high commissioner said, "I am confident that we can develop such a system, as it is clear that this issue is of the highest priority for the administration."

The cooperative arrangement with the refugee agency is the first major step toward implementing a more lenient policy on Haitian boat people announced by President Clinton nearly two weeks ago.

However, refugee advocates and African American leaders said the agreement will not dampen their demands for immediate action to provide some form of safe haven for the boat people.

"This is an encouraging step, but we continue to have grave concerns about the difference between commitment and execution in the administration's

policies," said Randall Robinson, head of the TransAfrica lobbying group, whose 27-day hunger strike called attention to the plight of Haitians fleeing the island's military government.

Facing protests by Robinson and others, Clinton announced May 8 that the administration would halt its policy of intercepting Haitian boat people and returning them without a chance to make asylum claims. In place of this practice, Clinton promised to arrange refugee processing either aboard ships at sea or on land if any nation in the Caribbean would allow its shores to be used.

A first test of how much the UNHCR can help the administration on the diplomatic scene will occur early next week when a delegation of officials from Britain and the Turks and Caicos Islands visits Washington for talks on the possibility of establishing a processing center on the Caribbean islands, which are a British dependent territory.

Although no decisions have been made, said Asomani Kofi, the UNHCR special envoy for Haiti, "out of these talks we hope to have a positive response from the Turks and Caicos authorities that will make it possible to arrange some kind of facility on the islands." Trying to arrange a floating refugee camp had produced what one senior administration official called "an unbelievable logistical tangle," and finding a land base for a processing center undoubtedly would speed the implementation of the new policy.

Administration officials worry about a tragedy at sea should a refugee-laden boat founder, and they are concerned that such a large flow could quickly overwhelm a new processing facility. Finally, refugee advocates, such as Robinson, regularly cite the continued repatriation of boat people as evidence that the administration is still unable to deal fairly with people fleeing a government that the United States has denounced as ruthlessly oppressive.

Kofi said in an interview yesterday that "our sense is that there is a great deal of eagerness on the part of the administration to get something going, even if it is not the perfect solution."

However, many problems remain. Administration officials said that in recent days they have struggled with dozens of interagency questions about the extent of legal counsel needed for the Haitians, the nature of the processing procedure, whether and how an immediate appeal can be heard and what one official called "a real aversion" to the scheme on the part of many officials in the Defense and State departments.

On one point, however, the administration has remained firm since Clinton announced the policy change. Many refugee advocates are demanding that the administration relax screening standards to afford temporary haven for persons who may not qualify for permanent resettlement as refugees. But U.S. and U.N. officials said there has been no discussion of any such change in the standards.

Senior administration officials said that the partnership with the UNHCR might help persuade other nations either to provide a site for processing facilities or to accept Haitian refugees for resettlement.

"We anticipate this will be especially helpful in our efforts to communicate to other governments that this is an international issue and not a bilateral matter between the United States and Haiti," an administration official said.

It appeared yesterday that the U.N. agency would be more involved on the diplomatic front than in the actual handling of Haitians. Kofi said, "We will be there in a monitoring and advisory role, but the actual screening will be in the hands of the U.S. and any other nations that might be involved in resettlement."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, HAITIANS IN DOWNTOWN PORT-AU-PRINCE PULL ON A PIPE BEING USED TO DIG A WELL BECAUSE OF ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE. AP

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 21, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 7 STORIES

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May 24, 1994, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A10

LENGTH: 771 words

HEADLINE: Haitian Policy Critics Resurface;
Advocates Want Administration to Create Haven for Refugees

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Roberto Suro, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

After holding their fire for two weeks to give President Clinton a chance to implement a new policy, refugee advocates yesterday demanded that the administration immediately create a haven for the rising number of Haitians fleeing their homeland in overcrowded boats.

Some of the sharpest criticism came from Randall Robinson, head of the TransAfrica lobbying group. Robinson condemned the new embargo on Haiti as worthless and told a news conference that the United States had taken a "minimalist" approach to resolving the refugee crisis.

"I do not know whether the administration is crippled by a lack of will or massive ineptness or a combination of the two," Robinson said in his first extensive public remarks since ending his 27-day hunger strike two weeks ago when the president announced the new refugee policy.

An influential committee of Roman Catholic bishops issued a statement calling on the administration to immediately begin providing temporary asylum at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the increasing number of Haitians who have taken flight since the president announced that the boat people would get hearings.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration proclaimed itself "doubly distressed" that the new policy has encouraged more people to flee but that the administration was still forcibly sending them home. "Haitian asylum seekers ought not be returned," said the committee.

In a finding certain to heighten demands for quick action on Haiti, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights announced yesterday that it had evidence that Haiti's military and its supporters have killed at least 133 Haitians and caused the disappearance of another 55 in a campaign to terrorize supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In addition, the commission, an agency of the Organization of American States, said it had received reports of rapes of about 20 wives and relatives of Aristide supporters. Most of the crimes described in the commission's report took place in the past six months. Instead of automatically sending all Haitian boat people back home, Clinton announced May 8 that the United States would let them apply for refugee status and resettle those who qualified.

In the two weeks since, little has been heard from the advocates and politicians who had pressed Clinton to make the change. During that time, however, few concrete steps have been announced toward implementing the new policy, and yesterday, as if some kind of deadline had passed in their minds, the advocates returned to the offensive.

Robinson joined several refugee and civil rights groups in demanding the use of Guantanamo as a temporary haven. In a statement they said, "it is unconscionable that even as the president acknowledges the heightened repression, our interim policy is to return all fleeing Haitians to their persecutors."

According to the Coast Guard, U.S. vessels have picked up more than 1,000 Haitian boat people in the past week, including 277 over the weekend. These numbers are rapidly approximating the record flows that occurred shortly after a military coup in 1991 ousted Aristide.

At that point about 5,000 boat people a month were being picked up, and the influx prompted the Bush administration to set up a processing center on Guantanamo and to allow many Haitians into the United States to pursue their asylum claims after only a preliminary screening at the naval base. Beset with lawsuits, some of them filed by the same advocates now urging a return to the naval base, President George Bush abandoned the program and ordered the refugees to be returned without a hearing.

Clinton administration officials say their policy is designed to offer quick processing and admission for those with legitimate claims and a quick return to the island for those who do not qualify. However, in the two weeks since the president announced this policy the administration has not been able to demonstrate much concrete action toward implementing it.

About 100 officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service began a one-week training program in San Antonio yesterday so that they can hear Haitian refugee claims. Also yesterday the administration began talks with officials of the British government and the Turks and Caicos Islands, a British dependency, about a U.S. request to set up a reprocessing center on the Caribbean islands.

The administration's critics now complain that it has encouraged Haitians to take to their boats by announcing a policy change but without having a mechanism in place to handle them.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 24, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 7 STORIES

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May 18, 1994, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A7

LENGTH: 597 words

HEADLINE: Islands Sought for Processing Haitians;
Clinton Queries Major on Use of British-Owned Turks and Caicos

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: John M. Goshko, Roberto Suro, Washington Post Staff Writers

BODY:

President Clinton has asked British Prime Minister John Major for permission to use the British-owned Turks and Caicos islands to process Haitian boat people intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard as they seek to flee to the United States, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The officials said Major told Clinton, who made the request in a phone conversation Monday, that he would give the matter careful consideration. While the officials went out of their way to stress Major had not turned Clinton down, one source said, "His response was not as negative as we had feared it would be, but it certainly was not an affirmative. We still don't know what he will decide."

A diplomatic source familiar with the conversation said, "The president described the problem in detail to Major and outlined the possible options for dealing with it. Major in effect replied that he understood the importance of the request and would consult with his government and the government of the Turks and Caicos."

The U.S. hope, American officials said, is to establish a processing facility in the Turks and Caicos where U.S. authorities could interview Haitian refugees to see whether they qualify for admission to the United States on grounds of political persecution by the Haitian military dictatorship. Those who do not qualify would be repatriated to Haiti.

The Turks and Caicos are a chain of about 30 islands near the southeast end of the Bahamas. Only six of the larger islands are inhabited, and the officials said discussions had not yet centered on a specific island for a possible U.S. processing facility. Moreover, if the British government agrees to cooperate, the processing possibly would be done not on land but aboard ships docked or anchored in the islands, officials said.

Under heavy pressure from human rights groups and American supporters of deposed civilian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Clinton on May 8 reversed the U.S. policy of intercepting Haitian refugees at sea and returning them to their homeland without a hearing. Instead, Clinton announced, the refugees would be given a hearing on U.S. vessels.

The Pentagon announced yesterday that a chartered Ukrainian-registered cruise ship, the 700-bed Gruziya, will be available for the refugee operation as early as Monday. A second Ukrainian cruise ship has been chartered and will be available in mid-June, the Pentagon said. No American companies responded to the Pentagon's request for bids on the operation.

Several options for handling Haitian refugees were examined at an interagency meeting at the White House yesterday, an official said, and at this point much depends on the diplomatic effort to win cooperation from other nations.

Besides the search for a place to conduct the processing of Haitian refugees, administration officials said, several countries have been contacted about accepting some Haitians for permanent resettlement or allowing them a temporary haven.

Then-President George Bush, who began the interdiction policy in 1992, tried to get other countries in or bordering the Caribbean to permit processing centers on their territory, but was turned down by all the governments that were approached.

If no nation agrees to allow processing on its shores or in its harbors, administration officials said, they are developing plans to conduct processing at sea aboard the chartered cruise liners. The officials said steady progress is being made in overcoming the substantial logistical challenges involved in the operation, such as identifying 150 people to process claims.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, JOHN MAJOR.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 18, 1994

**RUSH**

Mark - Sch

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

Fax Telephone: (202) 663-1061

DATE: 7-14

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Name: Eric Schwartz

Office: NSC

Fax Telephone: 395-1199

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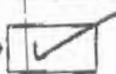
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PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 14, 1994

HAITI: INTERDICTION OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you give us an update of interdictions and processing statistics?

A. INTERDICTIONS

- THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP 178 HAITIANS IN 5 BOATS YESTERDAY.**
- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE USNS COMFORT BEGAN OPERATIONS ON JUNE 15 TO SOME 20,350.**

Q. Do you see this as the beginning of a downward trend in the outflow of boat people?

- A. -- THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN LOWER SINCE SATURDAY.**
- IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. WE DO KNOW THAT THE WEATHER WAS BAD OVER THE WEEKEND AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK, WITH HIGH SEAS OFF HAITI, AND THIS MAY HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF DEPARTURES.**

- 2 -

-- THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND EVENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT MURDERS IN LEOGANE MAY LEAD TO AN INCREASED FLOW IN THE FUTURE.

-- WE ARE CONTINUING TO APPEAL TO THOSE HAITIANS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION TO APPLY TO THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING PROGRAM AND THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS THESE LAST FEW DAYS.

Q. Do you think the new policy of temporary protection or voluntary repatriation and the fact that there is no longer an opportunity to go to the U.S. may be the reason?

A. -- AGAIN, I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE OR TALK ABOUT TRENDS.

-- WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT PEOPLE LEAVE HAITI FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. SOME ARE FLEEING PERSECUTION AND THE GROWING DETERIORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN HAITI, WHILE OTHERS ARE LEAVING FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

-- SOME 2,300 HAITIANS OF THE APPROXIMATELY 7,600 INTERVIEWED HAVE OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WHILE 5,269 HAVE ASKED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE

July 14, 1994

HAITI: TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you run through the numbers of those interviewed at Guantanamo for safehaven or voluntary repatriation?

- A. -- SOME 7,600 HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCESSED FOR EITHER VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**
- 5,269 HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**
- SOME 2,300 HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO HAITI. 2,088 OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED TO PORT AU PRINCE.**
- SOME 15,700 HAITIANS ARE PRESENTLY AT GUANTANAMO. APPROXIMATELY 9,700 OF THESE ARE AWAITING PROCESSING FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
July 14, 1994

HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Q. What are the plans for the Turks and Caicos Islands given the new policy change?

- A. -- THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRAND TURK SITE IS COMPLETED.**
- WE ANTICIPATE USING IT AS THE INITIAL PROCESSING SITE WHERE HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN OR FOR VOUNTARY REPATRIATION. NO ONE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S.**
- PERSONNEL FROM UNHCR AND U.S. AGENCIES ARE BEGINNING TO GATHER ON THE ISLAND.**
- BEFORE OPERATIONS CAN BEGIN ON GRAND TURK, THE GOVERNMENT OF TCI MUST ENACT LEGISLATION REGARDING IMMUNITIES FOR USG AND OTHER CIVILIANS AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER NECESSARY LEGAL PROVISIONS.**
- THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TCI WILL NEED TO BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE CHANGED NATURE OF THE OPERATION.**
- IF EVERYTHING FALLS INTO PLACE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN PROCESSING SOON.**

- 2 -

IF ASKED

Q. In light of the new policy, is there any change in the status of the Comfort?

USNS COMFORT

- A. -- THE U.S., AT THE REQUEST OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, IS PROCESSING THE REMAINING 368 HAITIANS ON BOARD THE COMFORT FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.**
- THESE HAITIANS WERE BROUGHT TO THE COMFORT PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.**
- YESTERDAY, 14 WERE APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. AND 58 WERE DENIED.**
- THOSE HAITIANS WHO ARE NOT APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION WHEN THEY GET TO GUANTANAMO.**

- 3 -

-- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS APPROVED FOR REFUGEE STATUS ABOARD THE COMFORT TO 560 AND THE NUMBER DENIED TO 1,417. THIS IS A 28 PERCENT APPROVAL RATE.

-- NO OTHER HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE REMAINING ON THE COMFORT, WILL BE PROCESSED FOR REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S.

Q. Are we discussing temporary protection sites with other countries in the region? Do we have agreements with any of them?

A. -- YES. WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION SITES WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

-- A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA ON JULY 10. TECHNICAL TEAMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO DOMINICA TO WORK WITH PRIME MINISTER CHARLES' GOVERNMENT ON A SAFEHAVEN SITE.

-- PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH THE ISLAND OF ST. LUCIA FOR SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES. WE EXPECT A POSITIVE DECISION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ST LUCIA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

- 4 -

- **PRESIDENT VENETIAAN OF SURINAME ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY ANNOUNCING THAT SURINAM, WISHING TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLVING THE HAITIAN ISSUE, HAS ACCEPTED TO PROVIDE A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR SOME 2,000 HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND SURINAME IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.**

- **THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF SURINAME IN THIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.**

- **WE HAVE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF ANTIGUA AND GRENADA FOR SAFEHAVEN SITES.**

- **WE ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT I CANNOT PROVIDE DETAILS AT THIS TIME.**

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 14, 1994

HAITI: IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING

Q. Could you provide an update on the In-country refugee processing program?

- A. -- AS OF JULY 8, OVER 59,500 PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY 1992.**
- MANY OF THESE APPLICANTS DO NOT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM AND ARE NOT PROCESSED FURTHER.**
- INS OFFICERS HAVE INTERVIEWED ALMOST 17,400 PEOPLE AT THE THREE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS.**
- OF THIS NUMBER, 4,269 HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY INS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES AND 13,130 HAVE BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO BE REFUGEES.**
- 2,933 OF THOSE APPROVED HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PROCESSING AND HAVE ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES. A FURTHER GROUP OF SOME 170 WERE SCHEDULED TO DEPART HAITI YESTERDAY ON AIR FRANCE.**

- 2 -

- MANY OF THOSE REMAINING ARE NOT YET TRAVEL READY. THE MAJORITY ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OF APPROVED REFUGEES. IN MANY CASES THEY DID NOT APPEAR AT THE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND INS MUST NOW VERIFY THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE THEY CAN TRAVEL.

- THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVED REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL SEND THEM ON AIR FRANCE UNTIL IT CEASES OPERATING.

- IOM IS ALSO SEEKING TO ORGANIZE CHARTER FLIGHTS. IF NECESSARY OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT WILL BE USED.

Q. Has there been an increase in the approval rate?

- A. -- THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE APPROVAL RATE OF REFUGEES AT THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS IN HAITI.

- 3 -

- DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, THE RATE HAS RISEN TO OVER 30 PERCENT.
- THE OVERALL APPROVAL RATE IS NOW ABOUT 24 PERCENT.
- WE ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREASE TO OUR EFFORTS TO WORK MORE ACTIVELY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHERS TO REACH THOSE HAITIANS WHO ARE IN DANGER.
- THESE NGOS REFER PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR REFUGEE PROCESSING.
- IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS, WE REFINED THE CRITERIA TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY THOSE HAITIANS IN NEED OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.

- 4 -

-- THESE CRITERIA ARE SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL ARISTIDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; CLOSE ARISTIDE ASSOCIATES; JOURNALISTS, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVISTS, AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF POLITICAL/DEVELOPMENT/SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT AND PERSISTENT HARASSMENT BY THE DE FACTO AUTHORITIES, OR WHO HAVE A CREDIBLE FEAR BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES; OTHERS OF COMPELLING CONCERN AND IN IMMEDIATE DANGER BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED POLITICAL BELIEFS OR ACTIVITIES OR WHO APPEAR TO HAVE A CREDIBLE CLAIM THAT THEY WILL FACE PERSECUTION AS DEFINED IN THE REFUGEE CONVENTION.

Q. Has there been an increase in the number of applicants to the program since the announcement of the safehaven policy?

A. -- THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS AT THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS BEEN INCREASING SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.

-- IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS AND TO SPEED UP THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, INS IS SENDING DOWN ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWERS.



*Hark - safe
have.*

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

**BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION
FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET
FAX TELEPHONE: (202)663-1061**

DATE: 7/15**PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:**Name: Eric SchwartzOffice: NSCFax Telephone: 395-1199**THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:**Name: Hazel M. ReitzOffice: PRM/PTelephone: (202)663-1014NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST * ☐

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TODAY'S PRESS GUIDANCE FYI

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 15, 1994

HAITI: INTERDICTION OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you give us an update of interdictions and processing statistics?

A. INTERDICTIONS

- THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP 78 HAITIANS IN 4 BOATS YESTERDAY.**
- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE USNS COMFORT BEGAN OPERATIONS ON JUNE 15 TO SOME 20,430.**

Q. Do you see this as the beginning of a downward trend in the outflow of boat people?

- A. -- THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN LOWER SINCE SATURDAY.**
- I BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. WE DO KNOW THAT THE WEATHER HAS ^{BEEN} BAD, WITH HIGH SEAS OFF HAITI, AND THIS MAY HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF DEPARTURES.**

- 2 -

- WITH THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND EVENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT MURDERS IN LEOGANE, WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASED OUTFLOW IN THE FUTURE.

- WE ARE CONTINUING TO APPEAL TO THOSE HAITIANS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION TO APPLY TO THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING PROGRAM AND ARE SEEING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS.

Q. Do you think the new policy of temporary protection or voluntary repatriation and the fact that there is no longer an opportunity to go to the U.S. may be the reason?

- A. -- AGAIN, I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE OR TALK ABOUT TRENDS.
-
- 2,439 HAITIANS OF THE APPROXIMATELY 8,475 INTERVIEWED HAVE OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WHILE 5,976 HAVE ASKED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE

July 15, 1994

HAITI: TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you run through the numbers of those interviewed at Guantanamo for safehaven or voluntary repatriation?

- A. -- SOME 8,475 HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCESSED FOR EITHER VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**
- 5,976 HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**
- 2,439 HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO HAITI. 2,305 OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED OR ARE ON ROUTE TO PORT AU PRINCE.**
- SOME 16,300 HAITIANS ARE PRESENTLY AT GUANTANAMO. APPROXIMATELY 9,600 OF THESE ARE AWAITING PROCESSING FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**

Q. Has anyone been returned to Haiti involuntarily since the new policy went into effect?

- A. -- NO. TO DATE, NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED FROM GUANATANAMO SINCE THE NEW POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 7.**

- 2 -

- UNDER THIS POLICY, HAITIANS INTERDICTED AT SEA ARE ADVISED THAT THEIR ONLY CHOICES ARE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO HAITI OR TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.
- APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION. THE STANDARD APPLIED IN SUCH DETERMINATIONS IS WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR REASONS LINKED TO PERSONAL SAFETY OR PROTECTION OR FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE.
- WHILE NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED YET, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE CASES IN WHICH APPLICANTS FOR SAFEHAVEN ARE FOUND TO BE EXCLUDABLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION BECAUSE OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.
- SUCH PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO HAITI.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE**July 15, 1994****HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**

Q. Where are you in the search for temporary protection sites with other countries in the region? Is it true that you are having difficulties finding safehaven sites?

A. -- AS YOU KNOW WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION SITES WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

-- WE HAVE SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA (domln-EE-ka). TECHNICAL TEAMS ARE ON THE ISLAND NOW WORKING WITH PRIME MINISTER CHARLES' GOVERNMENT ON A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR UP TO 2,500 HAITIANS.

-- PRESIDENT VENETIAAN (ve-ne-SHON) OF SURINAME ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JULY 13 ANNOUNCING THAT SURINAME HAS ACCEPTED TO PROVIDE A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR SOME 2,000 HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND SURINAME IS UNDER NEGOTIATION.

-- PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH THE ISLAND OF ST. LUCIA (LU-sha) FOR SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES. WE EXPECT A POSITIVE DECISION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ST LUCIA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

- 2 -

- WE HAVE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF ANTIGUA AND GRENADA FOR SAFEHAVEN SITES, BUT MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED.
- WE ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT I CANNOT PROVIDE DETAILS AT THIS TIME.
- THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF THESE COUNTRIES IN THIS REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.

Q. What are the plans for the Turks and Caicos Islands given the new policy change?

- A. -- THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRAND TURK SITE IS COMPLETED.**
- PERSONNEL FROM UNHCR AND U.S. AGENCIES ARE BEGINNING TO GATHER ON THE ISLAND.
 - WE ANTICIPATE USING THE GRAND TURK FACILITY AS THE INITIAL PROCESSING SITE WHERE HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN OR FOR VOUNTARY REPATRIATION. NO ONE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S.

- 3 -

- THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TCI HAS BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT THE CHANGED NATURE OF THE OPERATION.
- THE GOVERNMENT OF TCI HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION REGARDING IMMUNITIES FOR USG AND OTHER CIVILIANS AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER NECESSARY LEGAL PROVISIONS.
- WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN PROCESSING SOON.

IF ASKED

Q. In light of the new policy, is there any change in the status of the Comfort?

USNS COMFORT

- A. -- THE U.S., AT THE REQUEST OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, IS PROCESSING THE REMAINING 368 HAITIANS ON BOARD THE COMFORT FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

- 4 -

- **THESE HAITIANS WERE BROUGHT TO THE COMFORT PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.**
- **68 OF THESE HAVE ASKED TO BE VOLUNTARILY REPATRIATED AND WILL NOT THEREFORE GO THROUGH THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.**
- **158 OF THE REMAINDER WERE PROCESSED YESTERDAY. 23 WERE APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. AND 135 WERE DENIED.**
- **THOSE HAITIANS WHO ARE NOT APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION WHEN THEY GET TO GUANTANAMO.**
- **THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS APPROVED FOR REFUGEE STATUS ABOARD THE COMFORT TO 569 AND THE NUMBER DENIED TO 1,494.**
- **NO OTHER HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE REMAINING ON THE COMFORT, WILL BE PROCESSED FOR REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S.**

- 5 -

Q. What will happen to the Comfort when processing is completed?

**A. -- WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
JAMAICA THE MODALITIES FOR MOVING THE COMFORT
FROM KINGSTON HARBOR, PROBABLY TO GUANTANAMO.**

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

STATUS OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Cumulative Screening Report

June 15, 1994 - 0500 hrs. July 15, 1994

Processed for Refugee Status Aboard USNS Comfort

Total Interviewed			2,063
Approved	28 %	569	
Pending Final Processing/Transport		561	
Admitted to U.S.		8	
Denied	72 %	1,494	
Aboard USNS Comfort		135	
Moved to GTMO for Safehaven Processing		221	
Repatriated		1,138	
Medical Evacuations to U.S.			4

Processed for Safehaven Status at Guantanamo Naval Base (7/6/94-present)

Processed		8,475
Approved	5,976	
Pending Decision	60	
Requested Voluntary Repatriation	2,439	
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	134	
En Route to Port au Prince (Voluntary Repatriation)	217	
Voluntarily Repatriated	2,088	
Pending Processing		9,749
Ashore at Guantanamo Naval Base	9,636	
En Route to Guantanamo Naval Base	113	

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

**HAITIAN MIGRANT POPULATIONS
0500 July 15, 1994**

Guantanamo Naval Base		16,344
Processed		6,708
Approved for Refugee Status	538	
Interviewed for Safehaven/Voluntary Repatriations	6,170	
Granted Safehaven Status	5,976	
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	134	
Pending Decision	60	
Pending Processing		9,636
Aboard USCG and USN Vessels		330
En Route to GTMO for Initial Screening	113	
En Route to Port au Prince from GTMO	217	
Aboard USNS Comfort		372
Unscreened	146	
Pending Transport to GTMO/App. Refugee Status	23	
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	68	
Pending Transport to GTMO/Denied Refugee Status	135	
Admitted to U.S.		8
Medical Evacuations to U.S.		4
Repatriated		3,375
Repatriated from USNS Comfort	1,138	
Voluntarily Repatriated from GTMO	2,088	
TOTAL INTERDICTIONS		20,433

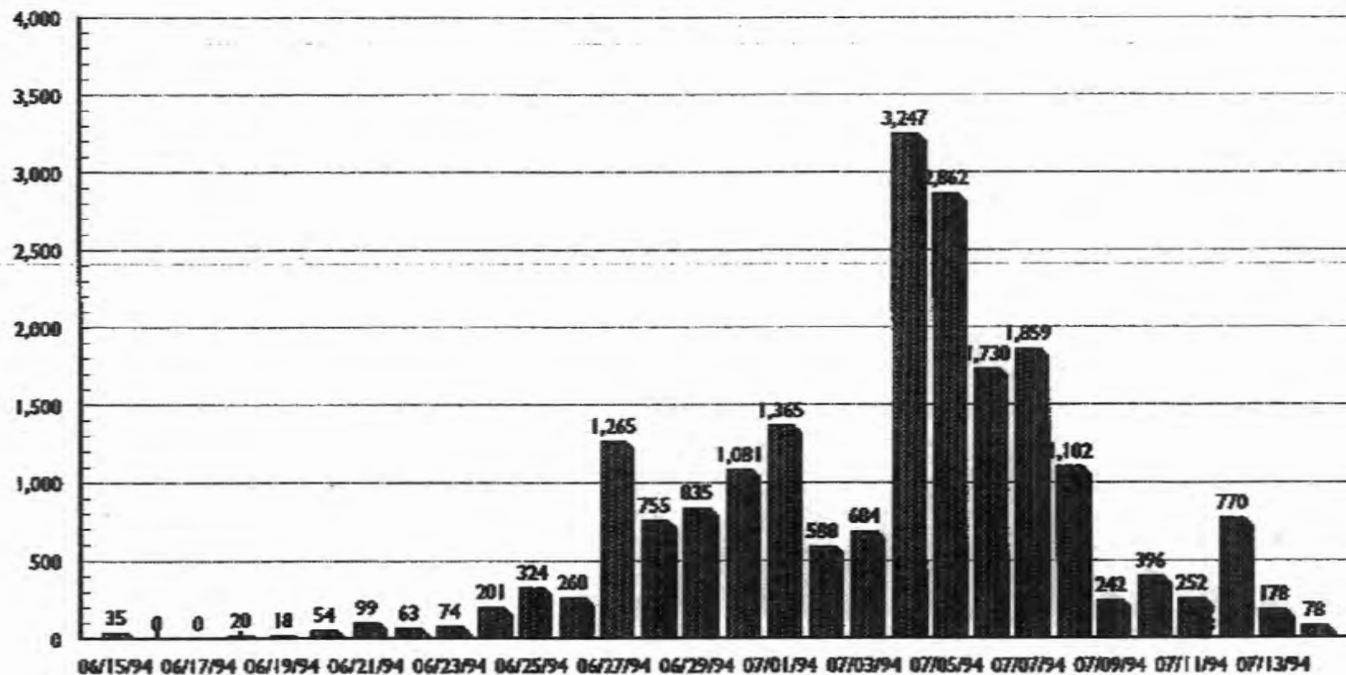


U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

DAILY INTERDICTIONS OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

by U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy

6/15/94 - 7/14/94



PRM:HTI-103

07/15/94

- 2 -

- MANY OF THOSE REMAINING ARE NOT YET TRAVEL READY. THE MAJORITY ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OF APPROVED REFUGEES. IN MANY CASES THEY DID NOT APPEAR AT THE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND INS MUST NOW VERIFY THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE THEY CAN TRAVEL.
- THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVED REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL SEND THEM ON AIR FRANCE UNTIL IT CEASES OPERATING.
- IOM IS ALSO SEEKING TO ORGANIZE CHARTER FLIGHTS. IF NECESSARY OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT WILL BE USED.

Q. Has there been an increase in the number of applicants to the program since the announcement of the safehaven policy?

- A. -- THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS AT THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS BEEN INCREASING SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.
- IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS AND TO SPEED UP THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, INS SENT 6 MORE INTERVIEWERS TO PORT AU PRINCE ON WEDNESDAY.

- 4 -

-- THESE CRITERIA ARE SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL ARISTIDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; CLOSE ARISTIDE ASSOCIATES; JOURNALISTS, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVISTS, AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF POLITICAL/DEVELOPMENT/SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT AND PERSISTENT HARASSMENT BY THE DE FACTO AUTHORITIES, OR WHO HAVE A CREDIBLE FEAR BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES; OTHERS OF COMPELLING CONCERN AND IN IMMEDIATE DANGER BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED POLITICAL BELIEFS OR ACTIVITIES OR WHO APPEAR TO HAVE A CREDIBLE CLAIM THAT THEY WILL FACE PERSECUTION AS DEFINED IN THE REFUGEE CONVENTION.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 15, 1994

HAITI: IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING

Q. Could you provide an update on the In-country refugee processing program?

A. -- AS OF JULY 8, OVER 59,500 PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY 1992.

-- MANY OF THESE APPLICANTS DO NOT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM AND ARE NOT PROCESSED FURTHER.

-- INS OFFICERS HAVE INTERVIEWED ALMOST 17,400 PEOPLE AT THE THREE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS.

-- OF THIS NUMBER, 4,269 HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY INS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES AND 13,130 HAVE BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

-- 2,933 OF THOSE APPROVED HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PROCESSING AND HAVE ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES. AN ADDITIONAL GROUP OF 170 DEPARTED HAITI ON WEDNESDAY ON AIR FRANCE.

- 3 -

Q. Has there been an increase in the approval rate?

A. " THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE APPROVAL RATE OF REFUGEES AT THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS IN HAITI.

- DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, THE RATE HAS RISEN TO OVER 30 PERCENT.**
- THE OVERALL APPROVAL RATE IS NOW ABOUT 24 PERCENT.**
- WE ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREASE TO OUR EFFORTS TO WORK MORE ACTIVELY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHERS TO REACH THOSE HAITIANS WHO ARE IN DANGER.**
- THESE NGOS REFER PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR REFUGEE PROCESSING.**
- IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS, WE REFINED THE CRITERIA TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY THOSE HAITIANS IN NEED OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.**

Hand - Safe have

MIGRANT AND WIND/SEAS DATA

JULY	MIGRANTS / VESSELS		SEAS (ft)	WINDS (kts)
1	1365	23	3-6	ESE 10-15
2	588	17	3-6	SE 13-18
3	684	21	3-6	ENE 20-25
4	3247	70	3-6	ENE 18-23
5	2862	46	3-6	ENE 15-20
6	1730	47	3-6	E 10-15
7	1859	36	2-4	ENE 12-17
8	1102	24	3-6	ENE 15-20
9	242	6	3-6	ENE 15-20
10	396	6	3-6	ENE 14-19
11	252	7	5-8	ENE 15-20
12	770	10	4-7	NE 22-27
13	178	5	4-7	ENE 22-27
14	78	4	5-8	E 23-29

NOTE:

1. Wind and Sea data provided by NAVLANT/ETOCEN. Data is an averaged value around the Northern Claw and Windward Passage area.

2. Coast Guard data has winds as light and variable with seas 2-4ft from the 1st thru 5th of July, then increasing to 15-20 kts gusting with seas 7-9ft from the 6th thru 14th.



Handwritten: *Safe Haven*
Hankin
Atty Gen

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMAND CENTER

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

JCC FAX NUMBER - COMM: 514-4699

TRANSMITTED TO:	SANDY BERGER
	(NAME)
	NSC
	(ORGANIZATION)
	757-2678
	(FAX NUMBER)
	(TELEPHONE NUMBER)
TRANSMITTED FROM:	DAG GORELICK
	(ORGANIZATION/NAME)
	514-5000
	(TELEPHONE NUMBER)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Jamie Gorelick to Sandy Berger, re: [Fund] (1 page)	07/17/1994	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Multilateral & Humanitarian Affairs (Schwartz, Eric)
OA/Box Number: 3416

FOLDER TITLE:

Haiti-Safe Haven, 1994-1995 [5]

2011-1045-F
ke1571

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002a. memo	Jamie S. Gorelick to Samuel Berger, re: [Fund] (2 pages)	07/18/1994	P5

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National Security Council
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OA/Box Number: 3416

FOLDER TITLE:

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2011-1045-F
ke1571

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U. S. Department of Justice

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE:

July 18, 1994

TO:

Samuel R. Berger

FAX NUMBER:

456-9490

PHONE NUMBER:

456-9481

FROM:

Janice L. Gorelick

FAX NUMBER: 202-514-0467

PHONE NUMBER:

514-2101

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Memo & attachment (attachment
not included in earlier fax)

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002b. memo	Jamie S. Gorelick to Samuel Berger, re: [Fund] (2 pages)	07/18/1994	P5

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Multilateral & Humanitarian Affairs (Schwartz, Eric)
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2011-1045-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

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July 18, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Teresa Wynn Roseborough *TWR*
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

You have asked us whether the Immigration Emergency Fund (the Fund) can be used to reimburse the Department of Defense for expenses incurred in expanding housing and other facilities at Guantanamo Bay and other locations for the purpose of creating a safe haven for Haitians who have been interdicted on the high seas and who fear persecution if they are returned to Haiti. We have concluded on the basis of a brief examination of the questions raised that the Fund may be used for this purpose if the President declares that the circumstances surrounding the exodus of Haitians from Haiti constitutes an "immigration emergency" and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agrees to reimburse the Department of Defense for its expenditures.

Money from the Fund can be used when (1) the President declares an immigration emergency and certifies that determination to the Judiciary Committees of the House and Senate; and (2) the payment supports an "enforcement activit[y]" of the INS. Immigration and Nationality Act, § 404, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 note.¹

Both Presidents Bush and Clinton have declared that the "grave events that have occurred in the Republic of Haiti to disrupt the legitimate exercise of power by the democratically elected government of that country constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States" and declared a "national emergency to deal with that threat." Executive Orders Nos. 12775 and 12922. President Bush has further found that "there continues to be a serious problem of persons attempting to come to the United States by sea . . . illegally." Executive Order No. 12807. However, the President has not yet specifically declared an immigration emergency with respect to the events surrounding Haitian refugees. Such a declaration, properly certified to the Congress, would be necessary before the Fund could become available.

Once the President makes such a declaration, INS could agree to reimburse the Department of Defense for its expenses related to the expansion or creation of facilities related to the safe havens. The creation of the safe havens falls within the INS's

¹ The Fund may also be used to reimburse States and localities for immigration assistance provided under specified circumstances.

"enforcement activities" for purposes of the Fund. The INS's enforcement activities include all legitimate actions necessary to enforce the immigration laws, including preventing undocumented aliens from entering the United States. As we said in an opinion concerning the potential use of the Fund to reimburse a third country for the repatriation of Chinese aliens:

[The INS's] power to prevent entry is illustrated by INS's authorization to detain and return certain undocumented aliens who reach the borders of the United States, see 8 U.S.C. § 1227. We see no reason to believe that this authority exhausts the INS's power to enforce the immigration laws by preventing entry.

Memorandum to Phyllis Coven, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, May 10, 1993.

Here, Haitian nationals are being interdicted on the high seas primarily to prevent their unlawful entry into the United States. In our view, all activities reasonably necessary to prevent such entry, including the creation of safe havens outside the United States, fall within the legitimate enforcement activities of the INS. This is especially true when it is contemplated, as it is here, that these aliens will ultimately be repatriated when their return can be safely accomplished.

*Hunt - safe have*

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

FAX TELEPHONE: (202)663-1061

DATE: 7/18

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name:

ERIC SCHWARTZ

Office:

NSC Staff

Fax Telephone:

395-1199

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name:

Douglas R. Hunter

Office:

PRM/P

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NOTES:

July , 1994

Mr. Kofi Asomani
Special Envoy for Haiti
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees
1718 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Asomani:

I am pleased to refer to our previous correspondence of June 11, 1994, and to your discussions with the President's Special Adviser on Haiti, William Gray, and other U.S. Government officials concerning the cooperation between the United States and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in the Haitian boat people emergency. This letter is occasioned in particular by the announcement by the United States on July 5, 1994, that the United States will no longer conduct refugee status determinations for Haitians. As from that date, the United States instituted a process to determine the need of and eligibility for temporary protection of Haitians interdicted or rescued at sea. The United States is grateful for the cooperation of UNHCR officials in this process.

Since July 7, 1994, UNHCR and the United States have worked together at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station on the basis of "Interim Instructions" and related documents which were jointly formulated but which, it was mutually agreed, could be modified following further discussions. In this regard we refer to the points raised in Mr. van Rooyen's letter of July 11, 1994, concerning involuntary repatriation. The purpose of this letter is to set forth the mutual roles and responsibilities of the United States and UNHCR with respect to all aspects of the temporary protection concept, which have now been reviewed by both parties.

This letter is applicable to the current processing operation at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, equivalent processing operations at locations in third countries, and temporary protection centers which may be established in various locations. For operations in third countries other than Cuba, it is our understanding that there will be written agreements with the authorities of such countries, which may vary by country, to govern the respective operations of UNHCR and of U.S. Government agencies.

- 2 -

The Processing Operation

UNHCR, assisted as requested by INS personnel, will counsel Haitians on their option to return to Haiti or apply for temporary protection in another country. UNHCR officers will counsel Haitians using an agreed upon script.

UNHCR officers will identify persons who want to return voluntarily to Haiti. Those individuals will sign a voluntary repatriation form, to be endorsed by UNHCR before the repatriation is carried out.

Those individuals who wish to apply for temporary protection will be assisted by Creole-English speaking staff in completing the "Application for Temporary Asylum". Initially, such staff will be provided by the International Organization for Migration, under a separate agreement with the United States. Once the backlog of Haitians awaiting application interviews has been cleared, we would expect that UNHCR will provide interpreters for this function.

The questions will be designed to separate Haitians who are seeking asylum for reasons linked to personal safety or protection from those who have fled solely for personal convenience. Certain questions will be designed to identify individuals who are not eligible for temporary protection. (The initial version of this form, which is subject to modification by mutual agreement of the UNHCR and the United States, is attached to this letter.)

INS quality assurance officers will review the applications to determine eligibility for temporary protection, in consultation with UNHCR. The standard to be applied in such determinations is whether the applicant is seeking asylum because of reasons linked to personal safety or protection, or for frivolous reasons or personal convenience. UNHCR will have the opportunity to review all cases found to be ineligible.

Those Haitians initially identified by the United States as not eligible for temporary protection will be given access to UNHCR personnel, who will then have an opportunity to review the case and personally interview the applicant if UNHCR deems it necessary. No Haitian will be involuntarily repatriated to Haiti by the United States without prior consultation with UNHCR officials. In cases where excludability arises as an issue, UNHCR may wish to conduct full status determinations.

The United States will cooperate fully with UNHCR in the exercise of its functions and will facilitate UNHCR's duty of supervising the application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol.

- 3 -

The United States and UNHCR recognize that persons arriving at the processing center may be in difficult physical or mental condition. Accordingly, the United States will take appropriate measures to ensure that Haitians be provided an adequate opportunity for medical attention and rest, as necessary, prior to initiation of the application process.

UNHCR will be permitted access to Haitians at all points of the determination process, subject to such considerations for safety and security as the commanding officer of the facility may deem necessary and subject to respect for the rights of the individuals to request privacy and confidentiality.

UNHCR will be permitted access to all identification, registration, processing, and eligibility determination information regarding the cases of individual Haitians at the processing center. UNHCR will respect the confidentiality of such information.

UNHCR will be permitted to monitor the treatment of all Haitians in the temporary custody of the United States.

The United States understands that UNHCR may take steps to ascertain the voluntariness of any request for repatriation.

UNHCR will be permitted to present to the U.S. officer-in-charge at the facility or other appropriate official any concerns about the eligibility determination process as a whole or individual eligibility determinations. UNHCR will also advise and consult with appropriate U.S. officials on the operation of the processing center as a whole.

The United States understands that UNHCR may be assisted in its counseling prior to the interview by staff of non-governmental organizations under UNHCR supervision, pursuant to agreements between UNHCR and such organizations. Subject to joint consultation and approval, non-governmental organizations may be requested to assist in other UNHCR functions.

UNHCR will provide advice to the United States as to appropriate procedures to identify and accommodate the special needs of particularly vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, torture victims, women victims of violence, and the physically and mentally disabled.

Temporary Protection Sites

The United States and UNHCR, acting in concert, will negotiate necessary and appropriate agreements with other governments for the establishment of temporary protection facilities on the territory of such countries. The respective roles and responsibilities of the United States and UNHCR may vary in such countries, depending in part on the wishes of the host government.

- 4 -

The United States and UNHCR will share responsibility for the management and operations of such temporary protection facilities, including ensuring the health and welfare of the Haitians in residence. The actual distribution of responsibility will be determined in accordance with the wishes of the host country. UNHCR will provide officers to advise the United States, and host country officials as appropriate, on the physical and social service needs of the Haitians. UNHCR officers will be available to provide counseling to the Haitians. The United States or, if mutually agreed, UNHCR may enter into agreements with non-governmental organizations for the purpose of providing social services for the Haitians.

UNHCR will be responsible for responding to requests from Haitians for voluntary repatriation. On the request of UNHCR, where it is operationally feasible to do so, the United States will carry out the transportation for groups of voluntary repatriates.

If required by its agreement with the host country, the United States may give appropriate guarantees regarding the removal of Haitians from the territory of such country by an agreed upon date. The United States and UNHCR will provide one another with copies of all relevant documents in this regard. We anticipate that the United States and UNHCR will consult closely on all matters regarding the responsibilities for funding and other guarantees which may be required by the host countries in specific instances.

Funding

UNHCR will endeavor to raise funds from the international donor community for its activities and operations in countries offering temporary protection to Haitians.

With respect to UNHCR's operations to assist the United States in initial counseling and status determination processing at Kingston, Jamaica, at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, and potentially at other locations in the future, UNHCR is requested to prepare a revised estimate of costs for the period June 15, 1994 through September 30, 1994.

Confirmation

I would appreciate your confirmation, by means of a return letter, that these understandings are correct.

On behalf of the Department of State and the other agencies involved in this operation, allow me again to express our appreciation for the willingness of UNHCR to assist the United States in the Haitian processing operation. I look forward to a successful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Brunson McKinley
Acting Director

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7/15/94 663-1077

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ARA/HTF:JLeonard
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S/RPP:RBeckham
G:AJoyce
NSC:ESchwartz
INS/GC:AAleinikoff
DOJ:PCoven

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003. memo	Tony Lake and Alice Rivlin to the President, re: Funding Haiti Migration/Safe Haven Operations (4 pages)	ca. 1994	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Multilateral & Humanitarian Affairs (Schwartz, Eric)
OA/Box Number: 3416

FOLDER TITLE:

Haiti-Safe Haven, 1994-1995 [5]

2011-1045-F
ke1571

RESTRICTION CODES

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMAND CENTER

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	(NAME)
	NSC
	(ORGANIZATION)
	757-2678
	(FAX NUMBER)
	(TELEPHONE NUMBER)
TRANSMITTED FROM:	DAG GORELICK
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RUSH

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

Fax Telephone: (202) 663-1061

DATE: 7/18

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Eric SchwartzOffice: NSCFax Telephone: 395-1199

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Name: HAZEL REITZOffice: PRM/PTelephone: (202) 663-1014NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: ☐THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST * ☒

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NOTES:

For Immediate Clearance please.
Thanks.

Hart -
Safe haven

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 18, 1994

HAITI: INTERDICTION OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you give us an update of interdictions and processing statistics?

A. INTERDICTIONS

- THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP 149 HAITIANS IN 5 BOATS ON FRIDAY, JULY 15.**
- THERE WERE NO INTERDICTIONS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.**
- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE USNS COMFORT BEGAN OPERATIONS ON JUNE 15 TO SOME 20,580.**

Q. Do you see this as the beginning of a downward trend in the outflow of boat people?

- A. -- THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN MUCH LOWER FOR MORE THAN A WEEK NOW.**
- I DO NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. WE DO KNOW THAT THE WEATHER HAS BEEN BAD, WITH HIGH SEAS OFF HAITI, AND THIS MAY HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF DEPARTURES.**

- 2 -

- IT MAY ALSO BE THAT THE MESSAGE IS TAKING HOLD IN HAITI THAT THE OPTIONS FOR HAITIANS WHO LEAVE BY BOAT ARE EITHER TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN OR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, AND NOT REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S.

- 2,765 HAITIANS OF THE APPROXIMATELY 11,000 INTERVIEWED HAVE OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WHILE 8,203 HAVE ASKED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.

- HOWEVER, WITH THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND EVENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT MURDERS IN LEOGANE, WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASED OUTFLOW IN THE FUTURE.

- WE ARE CONTINUING TO APPEAL TO THOSE HAITIANS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION TO APPLY TO THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING PROGRAM AND ARE SEEING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE**July 18, 1994****HAITI: TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE**

Q. Could you run through the numbers of those interviewed at Guantanamo for safehaven or voluntary repatriation?

A. -- SOME 11,000 HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCESSED FOR EITHER VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

-- 8,203 HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

-- 2,765 HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO HAITI. 2,756 OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED OR ARE ON ROUTE TO PORT AU PRINCE.

-- APPROXIMATELY 16,700 HAITIANS ARE PRESENTLY AT GUANTANAMO, OF WHICH 7,800 ARE AWAITING PROCESSING FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

Q. Has anyone been returned to Haiti involuntarily since the new policy went into effect?

A. -- NO. TO DATE, NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED FROM GUANATANAMO SINCE THE NEW POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 7.

- 2 -

- **UNDER THIS POLICY, HAITIANS INTERDICTED AT SEA ARE ADVISED THAT THEIR ONLY CHOICES ARE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO HAITI OR TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.**

- **APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION. THE STANDARD APPLIED IN SUCH DETERMINATIONS IS WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR REASONS LINKED TO PERSONAL SAFETY OR PROTECTION OR FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE.**

- **WHILE NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED TO DATE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE CASES IN WHICH APPLICANTS FOR SAFEHAVEN ARE FOUND TO BE EXCLUDABLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION BECAUSE OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.**

- **SUCH PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO HAITI.**

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE

July 18, 1994

HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Q. Where are you in the search for temporary protection sites with other countries in the region? Is it true that you are having difficulties finding safehaven sites?

A. -- AS YOU KNOW WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION SITES WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

-- WE HAVE SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA (domin-EE-ka). TECHNICAL TEAMS ARE ON THE ISLAND NOW WORKING WITH PRIME MINISTER CHARLES' GOVERNMENT ON A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR UP TO 2,500 HAITIANS.

-- PRESIDENT VENETIAAN (ve-ne-SHON) OF SURINAME ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JULY 13 ANNOUNCING THAT SURINAME HAS ACCEPTED TO PROVIDE A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR SOME 2,000 HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND SURINAME IS UNDER NEGOTIATION.

-- PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH THE ISLAND OF ST. LUCIA (LU-sha) FOR SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES. WE EXPECT A POSITIVE DECISION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ST LUCIA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

- 2 -

- WE HAVE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF ANTIGUA AND GRENADA FOR SAFEHAVEN SITES, BUT MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED.
- WE ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT I CANNOT PROVIDE DETAILS AT THIS TIME.
- THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF THESE COUNTRIES IN THIS REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.

Q. What are the plans for the Turks and Calcos Islands given the new policy change?

- A. -- THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRAND TURK SITE IS COMPLETED.
- PERSONNEL FROM UNHCR AND U.S. AGENCIES ARE BEGINNING TO GATHER ON THE ISLAND.
 - WE ANTICIPATE USING THE GRAND TURK FACILITY AS THE INITIAL PROCESSING SITE WHERE HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN OR FOR VOUNTARY REPATRIATION. NO ONE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S.

- 3 -

- THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TCI HAS BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT THE CHANGED NATURE OF THE OPERATION.
- THE GOVERNMENT OF TCI HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION REGARDING IMMUNITIES FOR USG AND OTHER CIVILIANS AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER NECESSARY LEGAL PROVISIONS.
- WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN PROCESSING SOON.

Q. What has happened to the Comfort?

USNS COMFORT

- A. -- THE U.S., AT THE REQUEST OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING THE REMAINING 368 HAITIANS ON BOARD THE COMFORT FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

- 4 -

- THESE HAITIANS WERE BROUGHT TO THE COMFORT PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.
- 81 OF THESE ASKED TO BE VOLUNTARILY REPATRIATED AND DID NOT THEREFORE GO THROUGH THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.
- ALL THE REMAINDER WERE PROCESSED. 29 WERE APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. AND 258 WERE DENIED.
- THOSE HAITIANS WHO WERE NOT APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.
- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS APPROVED FOR REFUGEE STATUS ABOARD THE COMFORT TO 581 AND THE NUMBER DENIED TO 1,354.
- THE COMFORT SAILED FOR GUANTANAMO ON SATURDAY.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION

FAX MESSAGE COVER SHEET

FAX TELEPHONE: (202)663-1061

*Hart-
Safchauer*DATE: 7/19

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

Name: Eric SchwartzOffice: NSCFax Telephone: 395-1199

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

Name: Hazel M. ReltzOffice: PRM/PTelephone: (202)663-1014NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST * ☐

* Warning: Anyone using the Fax to send action items

MUST ensure that all clearances have been received. DATE DUE: FOR CLEARANCE: ☐FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☒

NOTES:

TODAY'S PRESS GUIDANCE FYI - FINAL VERSION

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 19, 1994

HAITI: INTERDICTION OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

Q. Could you give us an update of interdictions and processing statistics?

A. INTERDICTIONS

- THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP 170 HAITIANS IN 1 BOAT YESTERDAY.**
- THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE USNS COMFORT BEGAN OPERATIONS ON JUNE 15 TO SOME 20,750.**

Q. Do you see this as the beginning of a downward trend in the outflow of boat people?

- A. -- THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN MUCH LOWER FOR THE LAST 10 DAYS.**
- I DO NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE.**

- 2 -

- THE MESSAGE MAY BE TAKING HOLD IN HAITI THAT THE
OPTIONS FOR HAITIANS WHO LEAVE BY BOAT ARE EITHER
TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN OR
VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, AND NOT REFUGEE STATUS
IN THE U.S.

- HOWEVER, WITH THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND EVENTS SUCH AS
THE RECENT MURDERS IN LEOGANE, WE CANNOT
DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASED OUTFLOW
IN THE FUTURE.

- WE ARE CONTINUING TO APPEAL TO THOSE HAITIANS
WHO FEAR PERSECUTION TO APPLY TO THE IN-COUNTRY
REFUGEE PROCESSING PROGRAM AND ARE SEEING AN
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DURING THE
LAST FEW DAYS.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE**July 19, 1994****HAITI: TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE**

Q. Could you run through the numbers of those interviewed at Guantanamo for safehaven or voluntary repatriation?

A. -- SOME 12,250 HAITIANS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCESSED FOR EITHER VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

-- 9,156 HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

-- 3,046 HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO HAITI. 3,011 OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED OR ARE ON ROUTE TO PORT AU PRINCE.

Q. How many Haitians are presently at Guantanamo?

A. -- APPROXIMATELY 16,300 HAITIANS ARE PRESENTLY AT GUANTANAMO:

9,156 WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR SAFEHAVEN; SOME 6,500 WHO ARE AWAITING PROCESSING FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION; AND

573 APPROVED REFUGEES FROM THE COMFORT WHO ARE AWAITING DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S (SOME 160 OF THESE ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S. TODAY).

- 2 -

Q. Has anyone been returned to Haiti Involuntarily since the new policy went into effect?

- A. -- NO. TO DATE, NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED FROM GUANATANAMO SINCE THE NEW POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 7.**
- UNDER THIS POLICY, HAITIANS INTERDICTED AT SEA ARE ADVISED THAT THEIR ONLY CHOICES ARE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO HAITI OR TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN.**
- APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION. THE STANDARD APPLIED IN SUCH DETERMINATIONS IS WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR REASONS LINKED TO PERSONAL SAFETY OR PROTECTION OR FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE.**
- IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE CASES IN WHICH APPLICANTS FOR SAFEHAVEN ARE FOUND TO BE EXCLUDABLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION BECAUSE OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.**
- SUCH PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO HAITI.**

- 3 -

Q. What can you tell us about conditions at Guantanamo?

- A. -- THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF OVER 1,000 HAITIANS A DAY, WHILE THE CAPACITY OF THE CAMP WAS BEING EXPANDED, MEANT THAT INITIAL CARE WAS LIMITED TO BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS FOOD, SHELTER, AND THE TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO WERE OBVIOUSLY SICK.**
- THE JOINT TASK FORCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL OPERATING THE GUANTANAMO FACILITIES HAS WORKED VERY HARD TO IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS AND TO FIND SOLUTIONS.**
- THE TASK OF CARING FOR SO MANY PEOPLE IS ENORMOUS.**
- THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE (CRS) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS STAFF IN GUANTANAMO, PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS COUNSELLING FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS, HEALTH AND SANITATION ADVICE, AND LOOKING INTO OTHER AREAS OF NEED.**
- UNHCR HAS 20 STAFF MEMBERS AT GUANTANAMO WHO ARE OVERSEEING THE SAFEHAVEN SCREENING PROCESS AND THE GENERAL WELL-BEING OF CAMP RESIDENTS.**

- 4 -

- U.S. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) ARE PREPARING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO THE HAITIANS IN GUANTANAMO.
- THESE SERVICES WILL LIKELY INCLUDE COUNSELLING SERVICES, THE DISTRIBUTION OF DONATED CLOTHING AND OTHER ESSENTIALS, AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES SUCH AS BASIC LITERACY SKILLS, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, ETC.

Q. What has happened to the Comfort?

USNS COMFORT

- A. -- THE COMFORT IS NOW AT THE GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE. ITS FUTURE USE IS UNDER DISCUSSION.
- THE U.S., AT THE REQUEST OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, COMPLETED PROCESSING THE REMAINING HAITIANS ON BOARD THE COMFORT FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE FROM JAMAICA.

- 5 -

- THE FINAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS APPROVED FOR REFUGEE STATUS WAS 581 AND THE NUMBER DENIED 1,698.
- 81 REQUESTED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND DID NOT GO THROUGH THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.
- 8 OF THE APPROVED HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN THE U.S. AND SOME 160 ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S. TODAY.

PRESS GUIDANCE**July 19, 1994****HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**

Q. Where are you in the search for temporary protection sites with other countries in the region? Is it true that you are having difficulties finding safehaven sites?

A. -- AS YOU KNOW WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION SITES WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

-- WE HAVE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA (domin-EE-ka) FOR THE TEMPORARY PROTECTION OF UP TO 2,500 HAITIANS.

-- A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED ON JULY 15 WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND OF ST. LUCIA (LU-sha) FOR SAFEHAVEN FACILITIES FOR UP TO 5,000 HAITIANS.

-- PRESIDENT VENETIAAN (ve-ne-SHON) OF SURINAME ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JULY 13 ANNOUNCING THAT SURINAME HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE A SAFEHAVEN SITE FOR SOME 2,000 HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND SURINAME IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

- 2 -

- WE HAVE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF ANTIGUA AND GRENADA FOR SAFEHAVEN SITES, BUT MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED.
- WE ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT I CANNOT PROVIDE DETAILS AT THIS TIME.
- THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION OF THESE COUNTRIES IN THIS REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.

Q. What are the plans for the Turks and Caicos Islands given the new policy change?

- A. -- THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRAND TURK SITE IS COMPLETED.
- WE MAY USE THE GRAND TURK FACILITY AS THE INITIAL PROCESSING SITE WHERE HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN OR FOR VOUNTARY REPATRIATION. NO ONE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S.

-- THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND TCI HAS BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT THE
CHANGED NATURE OF THE OPERATION.

PRM PRESS GUIDANCE
July 19, 1994

HAITI: IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING

Q. Could you provide an update on the In-country refugee processing program?

- A. -- AS OF JULY 8, OVER 59,500 PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY 1992.**
- MANY OF THESE APPLICANTS DO NOT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM AND ARE NOT PROCESSED FURTHER.**
- INS OFFICERS HAVE INTERVIEWED ALMOST 17,400 PEOPLE AT THE THREE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS.**
- OF THIS NUMBER, 4,269 HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY INS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES AND 13,130 HAVE BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO BE REFUGEES.**
- SOME 3,100 OF THOSE APPROVED HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PROCESSING AND HAVE ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES. A LARGE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE ON AIR FRANCE TOMORROW.**

- 2 -

- MANY OF THOSE REMAINING ARE NOT YET TRAVEL READY. THE MAJORITY ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OF APPROVED REFUGEES. IN MANY CASES THEY DID NOT APPEAR AT THE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND INS MUST NOW VERIFY THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE THEY CAN TRAVEL.
- THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVED REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL SEND THEM ON AIR FRANCE UNTIL IT CEASES OPERATING.
- IOM IS ALSO SEEKING TO ORGANIZE CHARTER FLIGHTS. IF NECESSARY OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT WILL BE USED.

Q. Has there been an increase in the number of applicants to the program since the announcement of the safehaven policy?

- A. -- THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS AT THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS BEEN INCREASING SLIGHTLY SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAFEHAVEN POLICY.**
- IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS AND TO SPEED UP THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, INS SENT 6 MORE INTERVIEWERS TO PORT AU PRINCE LAST WEEK.

- 3 -

Q. Has there been an increase in the approval rate?

A. -- THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE APPROVAL RATE OF REFUGEES AT THE IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTERS IN HAITI.

-- DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, THE RATE HAS RISEN TO OVER 30 PERCENT.

-- THE OVERALL APPROVAL RATE IS NOW ABOUT 24 PERCENT.

-- WE ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREASE TO OUR EFFORTS TO WORK MORE ACTIVELY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHERS TO REACH THOSE HAITIANS WHO ARE IN DANGER.

-- THESE NGOS REFER PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR REFUGEE PROCESSING.

-- IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS, WE REFINED THE CRITERIA TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY THOSE HAITIANS IN NEED OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.

- 4 -

-- **THESE CRITERIA ARE SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL ARISTIDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; CLOSE ARISTIDE ASSOCIATES; JOURNALISTS, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVISTS, AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF POLITICAL/DEVELOPMENT/SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT AND PERSISTENT HARASSMENT BY THE DE FACTO AUTHORITIES, OR WHO HAVE A CREDIBLE FEAR BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES; OTHERS OF COMPELLING CONCERN AND IN IMMEDIATE DANGER BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED POLITICAL BELIEFS OR ACTIVITIES OR WHO APPEAR TO HAVE A CREDIBLE CLAIM THAT THEY WILL FACE PERSECUTION AS DEFINED IN THE REFUGEE CONVENTION.**

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

HAITIAN MIGRANT POPULATIONS

0500 July 19, 1994

Guantanamo Naval Base		16,296
Processed		9,859
Approved for Refugee Status	573	
Interviewed for Safehaven/Voluntary Repatriations	9,286	
Granted Safehaven Status	9,156	
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	55	
Pending Decision	75	
Pending Processing		6,437
Aboard USCG and USN Vessels		405
En Route to GTMO for Initial Screening	170	
En Route to Port au Prince from GTMO	235	
Aboard USNS Comfort		0
Admitted to U.S. (Approved Refugees)		8
Medical Evacuations to U.S.		4
Repatriated		4,043
Repatriated from USNS Comfort	1,138	
Voluntarily Repatriated from GTMO	2,756	
TOTAL INTERDICTIONS		20,756

PRM:HTI-201

Status as of:

07/19/94

08:32 AM

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

**STATUS OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE
Cumulative Screening Report
June 15, 1994 - 0500 hrs. July 19, 1994**

Processed for Refugee Status Aboard USNS Comfort

Total Interviewed		2,279
Approved	25 %	581
Pending Final Processing/Transport		573
Admitted to U.S.		8
Denied	75 %	1,698
Moved to GTMO for Safehaven Processing/Voluntary Rep		560
Repatriated		1,138
Medical Evacuations to U.S.		4

Processed for Safehaven Status at Guantanamo Naval Base (7/6/94-present)

Processed	12,277
Approved	9,156
Pending Decision	75
Requested Voluntary Repatriation	3,046
Pending Voluntary Repatriation	55
En Route to Port au Prince (Voluntary Repatriation)	235
Voluntarily Repatriated	2,756
Pending Processing	6,607
Ashore at Guantanamo Naval Base	6,437
En Route to Guantanamo Naval Base	170



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

DAILY INTERDICTIONS OF HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

by U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy

6/15/94 - 7/18/94

