

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Dosnia Strong to Carol H. Rasco at 12:33:00.00. Subject: refugee policy. (2 pages)	04/14/1994	P5
002. email	Dosnia Strong to Carol H. Rasco at 15:33:00.00. Subject: nsc/haitians. (2 pages)	05/03/1994	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Automated Records Management System [Email]
OPD ([Clinton and Haitian Refugee])
OA/Box Number: 250000

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/14/1994 - 05/03/1994]

2011-1040-F

xx8

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]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Donsia Strong (STRONG_D) (OPD)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 14-APR-1994 12:33:00.00

SUBJECT: refugee policy

TO: Carol H. Rasco (RASCO_C) (OPD)

READ: UNKNOWN

CC: Kathryn J. Way (WAY_K) (OPD)

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Last week the USG had an incident off the coast of Bimini where the Coast Guard intercepted a ship of Cubans being smuggled from the Bahamas. It was noteworthy because contrary to our stated policy regarding alien smuggling, our practice with Cubans has been different. The USG has always brought all Cubans to Miami.

The Cuban National Foundation made a point of saying this was not a change in policy and that they supported efforts against alien smuggling. Since 1988, the Cuban National Foundation has been allowed to bring Cubans here from third countries by entering into Mem of Understanding w/DOJ/INS. In 1988 700 were allowed, 1500 in 89, 3000 in 90; 1700 in 91, 850 in 92, 300 in 93. The agreement usually says all Cubans who were in a third country by a certain date are eligible for the program. Usually a small number are eligible, 6 or 7%, of those interviewed are found to fit the definition of refugees.

The agreement further states the Cubans will not be a USG burden and will receive no government funding. In fact, in 1991, \$1.75 million of HHS funding had to go to the Foundation because the refugees were requesting welfare benefits from the State of Florida and hospitalization at Jackson Memorial, the county hospital. HHS asserts there was never any monitoring of the funds to serve 2000 people.

In exchange for holding the line in support of the USG policy against alien smuggling the Foundation wants the MOU extended and the cutoff date moved until 12/93.

A number of domestic refugee policies as well as political considerations are affected by this request:

1. Refugees are those fleeing persecution on the basis of race, membership in a particular social group, religion, or political opinion. Those looking for better economic opportunities are economic migrants and not eligible for this relief.
2. Refugees firmly resettled in third countries are not eligible for resettlement in the US.
3. The USG prefers not to take in refugees where we have "in country" processing.

The fact that we are considering extending the MOU has significantly raised the stakes in terms of Haitian policy. In every aspect the USG holds to its policy where Haitian refugees are concerned. By contrast, that is not the case for Cubans. This has not gone unnoticed by African American interests or Haitian advocates. I have been told this can not continue and they are less likely to continue their subdued opposition to our Haiti policy in the face of such absolute unfairness. During Deval's swearing-in I was informed in no uncertain terms that if the MOU is extended Randall Robinson will incorporate a condemnation of this MOU and its unfairness in a press conference as he discusses his hunger strike. In addition, there is an organized effort to raise the opposition to our Haiti policy. On Tuesday, Harry Belafonte and other Hollywood folks appeared on Donahue to discuss the policy, there will be a March of about 1,000 on April 30, NAACP proposes a grassroots c

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ampaign of its local offices nationwide to fight the US policy beginning at its July annual meeting, and Congressman Mazzoli is being urged to have a hearing to coincide with the march.

WH Political is urging extension of the MOU, State is split, NSC is split (I think), Public Liasion has concerns as well. Personally, I think the policy differences are indefensible.

Joe Velasquez and I spoke about the issue yesterday and urge a meeting of DPC, NSC, Pub Liasion, and Political to provide guidance to the agencies.

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Donsia Strong (STRONG_D) (OPD)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 03-MAY-1994 15:33:00.00

SUBJECT: nsc/haitians

TO: Carol H. Rasco (RASCO_C) (OPD)
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

PRINTER FONT 12_POINT_COURIER
May 3, 1994TO: CAROL H. RASCO
FROM: DONSLIA STRONG
SUBJECT: REFUGEE POLICY

As you know, on April 21, a 65 ft vessel was interdicted carrying 411 Haitian migrants. After an all night discussion the decision was made to bring them to the U.S. While aliens are on the high seas the issues surrounding return or release of migrants is primarily a foreign policy decision with elements of domestic and international politics commingled. However, detention or release and government agency coordination of potential refugees or asylees within the United States is clearly a domestic policy issue.

For reasons that escape me, I can't get DOJ to understand that DPC has primary jurisdiction over domestic refugee issues. (Although I strongly think personalities have a lot to do with this.) NSC staff readily agrees that DPC must be involved in coordinating operations and made aware of the details of actual operations. However, NSC has made very little effort to do anything other than what their principals task them to do.

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DRAFT

This morning I learned that the President, following a decision memorandum prepared by the NSC, acceded to NSC's recommendation to parole the 411 Haitian migrants interdicted off the coast of Florida on April 21. While I am generally in agreement with the carefully crafted plan for parole, the process for reaching this point gives me great concern. DPC must have at least an equal role in determining what happens with refugees being detained or released in the United States.

As last I recall, following our April 23, meeting in Sandy Berger's office, DOJ/INS was to prepare an options paper detailing their operations proposal concerning the disposition of these migrants. On April 27, my staff received a DOJ memorandum to NSC dated April 26, detailing DOJ/INS' operations proposal. Despite admonishments for full consultation about what is essentially a domestic issue, DPC received no further information regarding plans for this population until this morning.

DPC has an integral role for coordinating domestic policy. Every element of the current operation has the potential to

impact domestic policy not to mention domestic politics. Therefore, any future discussions or decisions concerning detention, parole or resettlement site alternatives regarding potential asylees should be fully coordinated with myself or DPC staff.

I am very concern that we adequately address the issue of too many refugees in a particular state. This has huge potential for political concern and impacts on what we will do in the long run on budget concerns including targeted assistance. I happen to know HHS/ORR is contemplating offering incentives to VOLAGS who will send refugees to someplace other than the 6 most populated states and states who will take refugees. It is important that these efforts be continuously coordinated.

In addition, I would hate for the President to ask your advise on an issue and you not be aware because I've not briefed you. I've prepared a draft memo to Berger or Gorelick. It will need some work but it gets the point across. In addition, I spoke to the Deputy INS Commissioner and told her it is very difficult to go to bat for them when we don't know what they are facing. They have agreed to closer cooperation.