



5790/8410

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB GRAHAM

December 7, 1984

Honorable Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

South Florida is facing a refugee crisis. This crisis is a direct result of the actions and failures of the Immigration and Naturalization Service concerning the method and timing of adjusting the status of Cuban citizens who entered the United States in the Spring of 1980 during the Mariel boatlift.

The INS now has launched a program to register the Mariel refugees for the purpose of adjusting their status, a program conceived without consultation from State and local officials or from the Florida Congressional delegation, and without adequate planning to cope with the consequences of this mass adjustment of tens of thousands of individuals in our State.

INS officials in Miami have been quoted as saying that as many as 300,000 additional people who are relatives of the original entrants can be expected to take advantage of opportunities to come to live with newly adjusted relatives and new citizens in America, principally in the State of Florida.

Extending the benefits of democracy to citizens of other lands, particularly those fleeing Communist oppression, has been a tradition of America. But in our zeal to assist others, we must not lose control of our borders and turn over immigration policy decisions to Communist dictators.

The purpose of this letter is to recommend to you five specific courses of action:

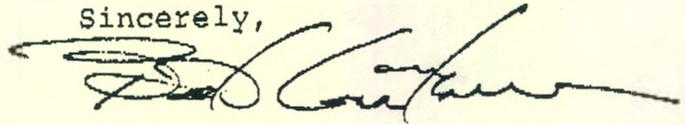
1. Designate appropriate federal officials to meet with their State and local counterparts in South Florida to discuss the impact of these recent INS activities upon law enforcement, social services, public health, education and housing. The purpose of the meeting will be to initiate actions to confront the current crisis and to develop budget information as to the cost of this recent INS action.
2. Utilize these budget estimates in order to include the full costs of this new wave of immigrants in the federal budget you will submit to the Congress in January. The last time Florida was subjected to an uncontrolled wave of immigrants, the unreimbursed cost to State and local government was a minimum of \$150 million. The Federal government must not victimize the taxpayers and citizens of Florida again.
3. Make sure that in the screening process prior to adjusting the status of a Mariel entrant to permanent resident alien, the INS ascertains that the candidate for resident status is self-supporting, mentally competent and free of criminal background. The screening process should also include sufficient information to develop a profile of relatives of newly adjusted residents.
4. Reinforce the program to interdict refugees on the high seas before they reach our shores. Recent arrivals in Florida of boatloads of refugees suggest that the program of interdiction is less effective than once believed, and in need of a thorough review.
5. Recognize the long-range social and fiscal impact on the nation and other states of adjusting the status of other non-citizens, as has been proposed under recent immigration reform legislation. The Federal government must be prepared to bear the cost of its own actions in this area, and stop passing the cost along to State and local governments.

It is urgent that a conference of Federal, State, and local officials be scheduled at the earliest possible date to mitigate the current

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crisis conditions and assess the financial cost. I offer my assistance to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paul Patton", written in a cursive style.

Governor

BG/ast

cc: Vice President George Bush