



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

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FEB 07 1992

Congressman William Lehman
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 1992

Dear Member of Congress:

We are deeply disturbed by recent events leading to the repatriation of thousands of Haitians who have sought refuge in the United States from an unconstitutional and repressive regime in Haiti.

In calling for the restoration of the democratically-elected government in Haiti, the Bush Administration has properly condemned the military junta now reigning terror on the Haitian people. In protest, the Administration has recalled United States Ambassador Alvin P. Adams, Jr.

Having acknowledged that the military regime is creating such political upheaval, our country ought not be in the position of forcibly repatriating thousands of individuals to confront terror and persecution.

President Bush's decision to repatriate the Haitian refugees is inhumane and is inconsistent with the ideals upon which this country was founded. We therefore urge you to support legislation to stop the repatriation of Haitians currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

The National League of Cities adopted the enclosed resolution on Haiti at their December, 1991 annual convention.

Sincerely,

David N. Dinkins
Mayor of New York City

Xavier Suarez
Mayor of Miami

Sharpe James
Mayor of Newark

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Congress of Cities
December 1991

HAITIAN IMMIGRATION POLICY

WHEREAS, the democratically elected Haitian government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in a military coup on September 30, 1991; and

WHEREAS, over six thousand Haitians have fled that island in recent weeks in whatever would float and many have been lost at sea; and

WHEREAS, more than five hundred Haitians were returned to Haiti under an Administration policy of repatriation but that such returns have been ceased under a federal court order;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports temporary suspension of all repatriation efforts until President Aristide is returned to his rightful position as head of the democratically elected government of Haiti.