

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Cribb, T. Kenneth: Files  
**Folder Title:** Immigration and Refugee Policy  
**Box:** OA 4821

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



# Department of Justice

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 9:00 A.M. EDT  
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1981

## (F) U.S. IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY

### The Problem

The time for a clear U.S. immigration and refugee policy is long overdue.

- o Current laws and enforcement procedures are inadequate -- particularly with regard to illegal aliens and mass requests for asylum.
  - The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 and its 1976 amendments do not provide effective means for controlling illegal immigration.
  - The magnitude of illegal immigration seriously handicaps the Immigration and Naturalization Service's ability to enforce the law.
    - Current procedures regarding deportation are often too lengthy and complicated, thereby inhibiting effective and timely enforcement of our immigration laws.
    - The laws do not provide for enforcement against those who would knowingly hire illegal aliens.
  - There are inadequate guidelines and legislative authority for dealing with mass immigration (e.g., the Cuban influx in 1980).
  - There is a great need for increased cooperation between the U.S. and other countries regarding immigration policies.
- o Immigrants -- both legal and illegal -- are entering the U.S. in greater numbers than at any time since the early 1900s.
  - Largely because of the Cuban and Haitian influx and a large refugee admissions program, more than 800,000 persons were allowed to enter the U.S. in 1980 -- about a 300,000 increase from the previous year.

-- The Census Bureau has estimated that 3.5 million to 6 million people are in the U.S. illegally -- at least 50% from Mexico. About 1-1.5 million entered illegally in 1980.

o Immigrants who enter the U.S. illegally are creating problems for themselves, as well as for the country.

-- Since they are afraid to seek the protection of U.S. labor laws, many work in "sweatshop" conditions for less than legal minimum wages.

-- An uncontrolled influx of illegal aliens can strain community services and create potential problems for some American job seekers.

The Reagan Administration Proposals

On March 6, President Reagan established a Task Force on Immigration and Refugee Policy to review existing practices and recommend ways to strengthen U.S. immigration laws and programs. Chaired by the Attorney General, the Cabinet-level Task Force presented its recommendations to the President in three full Cabinet meetings July 1, 13 and 16.

As a result, the Administration has formulated a comprehensive U.S. immigration and refugee policy to deal with:

- A. Arrivals of Undocumented Aliens by Sea
- B. The General Illegal Alien Problem
- C. Legal Immigration
- D. Refugee and Asylee Benefits

The Administration will implement these policies through administrative action and legislation proposed to Congress.

A. Arrivals of Undocumented Aliens by Sea

o Increased Enforcement

-- Legislation to prohibit bringing undocumented aliens to the U.S., and to strengthen existing authority for the interdiction, seizure and forfeiture of vessels used in violation of our laws.

-- Legislation to prohibit, in Presidentially declared emergencies, U.S. residents and U.S. registered vessels from travelling to designated foreign countries for the suspected purpose of transporting illegal aliens to the U.S.

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

11-12-81

TO: Craig Fuller

For your information.



Ed Meese has okayed this.

EWT



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 12, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: James A. Baker III  
 FROM: Kate L. Moore *KJM*  
 SUBJECT: Fort Drum Implementation

The White House should not be further burdened with the alien detention issue.

A team leader, with clout, is required to co-ordinate the process. DOJ/INS in theory should have the lead, but Dave Martin is very skittish about working with DOJ, because DOJ showed absolutely no political sensitivity to Martin when it located a prison facility in his district.

Recommendation

I recommend that Gene Miller, now a consultant in the Office of Refugee Resettlement at HHS be designated team leader and detailed to DOJ.

I am bringing this to your attention because if he has White House as well as DOJ endorsement for his role, he will have the clout to co-ordinate all concerned agencies - Defense, INS, DOJ, OMB and HHS.

I am recommending this detail for the following reasons:

1. Miller has Dave Martin's confidence -- the two traveled to Fort Chaffee and Martin was favorably impressed. (Further, both Miller and Martin are former Marines). This rapport is very important because of Martin's complete lack of confidence in DOJ.
2. Gene Miller is the one person involved in the detention issue who has demonstrated ability to co-ordinate this tricky interagency process -- (I have confidence in no one else.) He is a consultant at HHS, brought in to deal with the Mariel Cubans. He is also politically savvy.
3. Miller is available on a project basis.
4. DOJ thinks well of Miller and I believe would be amenable to assigning him to this task.

If you concur, DOJ would work with HHS to arrange assignment, and would notify all concerned agencies that Miller has DOJ/WHO approval for this mission.

11/12 *Jim* \_\_\_\_\_ Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove  
*Gene Miller let E.M. know if he has any objection.*

cc: Jim Cicconi

*but please let Craig Fuller know about this also.*

*Handwritten notes in top left corner, including "11/12" and "Jim".*

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

~~Ken  
call~~

TO:

CHF

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Kate Moore

OF (Organization)

X 6415 or X2174

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT.  FTS

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re: Ft Drum memo -  
to fill you in on her  
conversation w/  
Justice - so you

RECEIVED BY

K.

DATE

11/12

TIME

1:45

63-109-

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

will know where they stand

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Kate Moore - Conversation with Diller  
Diller: "We think well of Gene;"

Diller was to talk to Ruddy for my off

~~by~~

Gene is in <sup>Phil</sup> Diller's office  
status is consultant

H. H. S. - (A) handling <sup>cubans</sup> ~~cases~~ left  
(B) public health Service request

Dave Martin agreed to take 10 actions  
(fundament <sup>also</sup> cubans after the fact)

- Yesterday - Martin went to Ft. Cliffe  
Will test waters that were cubans  
(Waterbury N. Y.)  
can come up (But not mentally ill)  
may close this ~~where~~ - But can be  
- may accept mentally ill cubans

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

November 16, 1981

4:00 PM

Roosevelt Room

AGENDA

1. Coordination of Refugee Resettlement Efforts
2. Status of Current Resettlement Negotiations
3. Steps to Expedite Resettlement

*Sequence to Durr*

- ① who is going to R
- ② Fiscal
- ③ Routine



11/10

Mills 245-7275

# Refugee Polus

- Phil Hancock
- Bene Mills
- David Mills
- Ed Brandt (Mantala)
- Kravis
- Symalla
- Don Moran

## ① Dordrecht

- Settle by end of the Day
- Coordinators
- Reporting through me

→  
Bene is appointed Coordinator  
Retained to handle  
W/H resolves disputes

## ② Status of Refugee Resettlement

A 200 at <sup>Chuffe</sup> Placement - show just off work  
Bene, then 100 by end of January

## ③ Mental Health Placements - 230 at Fat Office

100 in patient hospitalization  
(50-65) additional at St Elizalets

(97) at Atlanta in fact - public 200

480-500 need long term care ~~500~~  
230 needing in patient care 5

10 months + in care only place 15

Moran - St. Elizalets? - has 108%

# US State - done anything anything 1. Repatriate

- Haitians 2 non-Mental at Fort C.

Fort Drum (2.4 million left)

50 million per year for salaries only

~~26 million~~

- 160 million for resettlement

~~19 million~~

Close of Fort Chaffee - ~~100~~

and more 75,000 a day off's Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

Gene will prepare

Detailed Budget Projections

Team T Amos offers on ground at Fort Drum

No Detailed Budget Projections forthcoming

maybe xhadow

+ Gene: ~~can~~ go in Wed instead of 3

\* Fants. - Press Relief



U.S. Department of Justice  
Associate Attorney General

---

December 15, 1981

TO: James Cicconi  
FROM: Renee Szybala *RS*  
Special Assistant to the  
Associate Attorney General  
RE: Detention Facilities

Attached is a copy of the joint  
INS/HHS memorandum on detention sites  
which I believe you were expecting.

Memorandum



Subject  Detention Policy for Cubans at Fort Chaffee and Other Locations, and for Potential Overflow of Haitians	Date  DEC 15 1981
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------

To  
Rudolph W. Giuliani  
Associate Attorney General

From  
Alan C. Nelson *acn*  
Deputy Commissioner, INS  
&  
Philip N. Hawkes, Director *PHH*  
Office of Refugee Resettlement

This summarizes the joint position of DOJ and HHS with respect to the detention arrangements for Cubans and the interim detention arrangements for Haitians. This likewise confirms the discussion and agreement reached at the meeting on December 14, 1981 with Justice and Health & Human Services officials and Jim Cicconi and Ken Cribbs of the White House. Agreement was reached on the following matters:

1. Immediately make arrangements to move the Cubans from Chaffee and other locations to facilities at Glasgow, Montana. Based on the inability to house many of the Cubans at Fort Drum and the necessity to consolidate Cubans, Glasgow is the only alternative.
2. Due to the changed circumstances with respect to the number of Haitians in detention resulting from the effective Administration policy on detention, interdiction, and improved legal processing, the immediate need to house Haitians outside of existing facilities in Florida and Puerto Rico is diminished. The Glasgow facility for the Cubans can easily be expanded on short notice, at minimal cost, to accommodate 1,150 Haitians should the influx again increase.
3. Fort Drum should remain as an additional overflow site for Haitians in the event such facilities are necessary. Therefore, DOD should be requested to reserve the designated area at Fort Drum for this purpose, should that facility be needed.
4. The White House should pursue, with the Department of Defense and Congressman Martin, the understanding regarding certain upgrading of the Fort Drum facility for military purposes.

5. Public information coordination for the Glasgow project should be handled by DOJ Public Information Office.

The above decisions are consistent with the overall strategy of the Administration's detention policy and with the President's decision to make Fort Drum available for detention use. The decision likewise represents to most cost effective approach to the matter. It also accomplishes the prime objective of the prompt consolidation of the HHS Cuban project in a facility other than Fort Chaffee, Arkansas pursuant to the Administration's commitment.

#### BACKGROUND

Fort Drum was originally selected to house Cubans and Haitians because of its physical capacity to consolidate all existing facilities at one location. Due to local opposition to the placement of Cuban mentals at Fort Drum, it is not feasible to effect the transfer of those mental health cases at Fort Chaffee and St. Elizabeth's Hospital Building B, to Fort Drum.

There is only one viable option that can be considered to be immediately available - the Valley Industrial Park (VIP) outside of Glasgow, Montana. It is anticipated that an average of 600 Cubans would be housed at the VIP facility at Glasgow, Montana throughout the remainder of this fiscal year. The facility could be prepared to receive 65 Cubans from St. Elizabeth's Hospital Building B before January 31, 1982, with the Fort Chaffee group being sent during the month of February 1982.

The congressional delegation and the Governor of Montana are fully supportive of the Glasgow facility, and the community of Glasgow has been very supportive and eager to have the facility. While the climate in the winter is quite cold, there is considerably less snowfall at Glasgow than at Fort Drum. Furthermore, the buildings at Glasgow, a former SAC base, are far superior and much better insulated than those at the Fort Drum facility.

Because of the drastic drop in the influx of Haitians, compared to 1980, it is not necessary at this time to transfer Haitians to another facility. However, it would be prudent for INS to plan and prepare, at least minimally, at Glasgow, in the event that the flow increased in the spring and it was necessary to quickly make the facility operational for Haitians if the inflow dictated such an action. To prepare Glasgow for this eventuality would give INS operational flexibility and would be cost-effective.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

KC  
1. find out who has action at HHS/OIL-OMB.  
2. set meeting w/ you "them" and me  
Agenda: ① Status report from agencies  
② Actions necessary to expedite.

MEMORANDUM TO SENIOR STAFF → C. Fuller  
FROM: Ed Harper  
SUBJECT: Closeout of Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas Cuban Detention Camp

In September 1980, over protests from the Governor of Arkansas, 7,000 difficult-to-resettle Cubans (mentally ill and anti-social) were consolidated at Ft. Chaffee. The Carter Administration agreed to close Chaffee by December 31, 1980. HHS has not only failed to meet that deadline, but also several deadlines set afterwards.

Both Arkansas and the Federal Government agree Chaffee should be closed as soon as possible. HHS and the Office of Refugee Resettlement have made progress in reducing Mariel population remaining in Federal custody, from 1,300 in January 1981, to the current 575 at Ft. Chaffee. However with the remaining Mariel Cubans, there are two major obstacles:

1. The nature of the remaining Mariel Cubans makes them exceedingly difficult to resettle:

250 are mentally ill, retarded and disabled (of which 100 are inpatients requiring long-term institutionalization).

275 are anti-socials who exhibit violent and uncontrolled behaviors, and need halfway house transition services during resettlement.

2. Reluctance by States and voluntary agencies to enter into contracts to resettle and care for these hard-to-place individuals.

HHS had been negotiating with Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky to institutionalize 100 Cuban inpatient mentally ill, but after field visits to interview the prospective inpatients, only Illinois has agreed to accept any (8).

HHS has also been negotiating for some time with Valley County, Montana to transfer some of the Ft. Chaffee Cubans to a new detention camp at the old Glasgow Air Force Base, and offer halfway house transitional rehabilitation services there.

It would be highly desirable if a White House policy official could urge HHS to speed up negotiations with States for mental hospital placements; and recruitment of halfway house resettlement contractors with the objective of closing Ft. Chaffee as soon as possible (operating costs: \$100,000 a day).

It may be helpful to HHS efforts if the White House could encourage States to be more cooperative and reduce unnecessary preconditions for accepting Ft. Chaffee Cubans (such as seeking detailed background records which are only available in Cuba).

You should be aware that merely opening a new camp and transferring Ft. Chaffee Cubans en masse will not resolve their eventual disposition. The sooner Cubans are placed in adequately supervised community-based halfway house treatment or similar arrangements, the sooner their eventual successful resettlement and a reduction in Federal costs.

*W. Cribb*  
*Attorney General*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Craig L. Fuller *CLF*

SUBJECT: Cuban Stowaways

The White House has indicated that a procedural review is underway in the wake of the recent return of a Cuban stowaway. As part of that review, a desire has been expressed for a fact paper that would address the following points:

1. What is our current policy on Cuban arrivals (including, but not limited to, stowaways);
2. Why the recent stowaway was returned to Cuba;
3. In the opinion of the Justice Department, was the decision to return the stowaway consistent with the law and with our policy; and
4. What steps might be desirable as a result of the answer to #3 above.

Any other factual information relevant to the subject and the above questions would also be helpful.

It would be appreciated if this fact paper could be forwarded to the Office of Cabinet Affairs by Friday, February 5, 1982.