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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DIANNA G. HOLLAND

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS 

SUBJECT:

Inter-American Foundation
President Deborah Szekely

I recommend closing this out with no response. Mr. Fielding had discussions with certain of the individuals involved in the subject dispute and decided not to send the response I drafted for his signature, but to put it on "hold." I doubt that the signers of the incoming expect a response at this point.

John

Date 9.4.85

Suspense Date _____

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ann

FROM: DIANNA G. HOLLAND

ACTION

WALD UP

- Approved
- Please handle/review
- For your information
- For your recommendation
- For the files
- Please see me
- Please prepare response for _____ signature
- As we discussed
- Return to me for filing

I

COMMENT

Would you please review
my current dates. Also,
check w/ John to be
sure these are current.
Thanks

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*
SUBJECT: Inter-American Foundation
President Deborah Szekely

*I think Bl is wrong
(Chair + V. Chair)*

Senator Wilson and three Representatives have written the President to take the side of the President of the Inter-American Foundation, Deborah Szekely (pronounced "see-kay"), in a dispute she is having with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors.

The Foundation is a corporation, an agency of the United States, established to promote development in Latin America. 22 U.S.C. § 290f. It is managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Four members are appointed from private life; three are officers or employees of the United States concerned with inter-American affairs. 22 U.S.C. § 290f(g). Board members serve six-year terms; of the four members from private life, the President has appointed three. The Board appoints a President "on such terms as the Board may determine."

I called Susan Borchard for information about the imbroglio. Szekely is the owner of the "Golden Door" fat farm and a friend of Mr. Wick's. She was appointed by the Board last September on Wick's recommendation. Since then she has alienated Board Chairman Victor Blanco and Vice Chairman Harold K. Phillips. Basically, Blanco and Phillips view Szekely as not adequately promoting American interests and generally funding leftist groups. The dispute has also become a personality clash.

Blanco and Phillips recently tried to have the Board fire Szekely, but Board members Langhorne Motley and J. William Middendorf abstained (they did not want to get involved, since they are leaving the Government), and new Reagan appointee Lynda Barness also abstained, because she was so new and unfamiliar with the dispute. As a result, Blanco and Phillips did not have the votes.

Personnel has no immediate plan of action, other than to revisit the issue when Motley and Middendorf are replaced and Barness becomes more familiar with the facts. It seems

to me that the Administration must support its people on the Board, rather than taking action to shore up a President that does not enjoy the confidence of the Board. In any event, the attached bland reply simply advises Szekely's congressional supporters that by law the Board appoints the President. The memorandum to Tuttle recommends that his office address the question as soon as a new Board is in place, to prevent Administration personnel squabbles from being aired on the Hill.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT H. TUTTLE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Inter-American Foundation
President Deborah Szekely

Attached is a copy of my brief reply to Senator Wilson and three Representatives who wrote in support of Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, who is *as you know* ~~apparently~~ having difficulties with the Board of Directors that appointed her. I understand that the Board is presently going through some turnover in its Government representatives. As soon as is feasible, it would seem advisable to address this issue and resolve it one way or the other, so that personnel disputes within the Administration are not aired on the Hill, and so that the functions of the Foundation do not suffer.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

Dear Senator Wilson:

Thank you for your letter of July 17 to the President. In that letter you expressed your support for Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, and urged that the President intercede on her behalf with the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

We appreciate your sharing your views on the affairs of the Foundation with us, and we will certainly give them every appropriate consideration. I would note that while the President appoints the Board of Directors of the Foundation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is the Board that appoints the President of the Foundation, "on such terms as the Board may determine." 22 U.S.C. § 290f(g), (1) (1).

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Pete Wilson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

Dear Congressman Lowery:

Thank you for your letter of July 17 to the President. In that letter you expressed your support for Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, and urged that the President intercede on her behalf with the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

We appreciate your sharing your views on the affairs of the Foundation with us, and we will certainly give them every appropriate consideration. I would note that while the President appoints the Board of Directors of the Foundation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is the Board that appoints the President of the Foundation, "on such terms as the Board may determine." 22 U.S.C. § 290f(g), (1) (1).

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Bill Lowery
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

Dear Congressman Hunter:

Thank you for your letter of July 17 to the President. In that letter you expressed your support for Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, and urged that the President intercede on her behalf with the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

We appreciate your sharing your views on the affairs of the Foundation with us, and we will certainly give them every appropriate consideration. I would note that while the President appoints the Board of Directors of the Foundation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is the Board that appoints the President of the Foundation, "on such terms as the Board may determine." 22 U.S.C. § 290f(g), (1) (1).

Sincerely,

Fred E. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

Dear Congressman Packard:

Thank you for your letter of July 17 to the President. In that letter you expressed your support for Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, and urged that the President intercede on her behalf with the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

We appreciate your sharing your views on the affairs of the Foundation with us, and we will certainly give them every appropriate consideration. I would note that while the President appoints the Board of Directors of the Foundation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is the Board that appoints the President of the Foundation, "on such terms as the Board may determine." 22 U.S.C. § 290f(g), (1) (1).

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Ron Packard
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT H. TUTTLE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Inter-American Foundation
President Deborah Szekely

Attached is a copy of my brief reply to Senator Wilson and three Representatives who wrote in support of Deborah Szekely, President of the Inter-American Foundation, who is apparently having difficulties with the Board of Directors that appointed her. I understand that the Board is presently going through some turnover in its Government representatives. As soon as is feasible, it would seem advisable to address this issue and resolve it one way or the other, so that personnel disputes within the Administration are not aired on the Hill, and so that the functions of the Foundation do not suffer.

Attachment

FFF:JGR:aea 9/5/85

cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron