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# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON August 30, 1983

Rev. Florent D. Toirac Spanish World Gospel Mission, Inc. Box 542 Winona Lake, Indiana 46590

Dear Rev. Toirac:

Faith Ryan Whittlesey asked me to respond to your letter of August 2, 1983.

As you know, the President's policy with regard to Central America centers upon economic aid to the nations of this region. In this respect, these nations could be helped so that they can help themselves. Because of the President's policy, these nations can count on the United States to be a friend and to assist in their development. This will help to avoid any occurance of the situation which you referred to in your letter.

The President has never closed the door to negotiations to settle the differences in Central America. As you may realize, the proper way to negotiate is from a position of strength and not one of weakness.

In closing, let me thank you for your support and concern. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell Special Assistant ot the President

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## SPANISH WORLD GOSPEL MISSION, INC.

BOX 542 WINONA LAKE, INDIANA 46590

TELEPHONE: OFFICE (219) 267-8821, HOME (219) 267-7417

NCORPORATED AS A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA, AND REGISTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATES OF FLORIDA AND TEXAS

August 2, 1983

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#### FIELDS

Latin America, Mexico Caribbean, Spain United States Faith Ryan Whittlesey Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madame:

In response to your invitation, I had the opportunity to be present for the special briefing on U.S. National Security and the Central American Policy, at the White House Old Executive Office Building, Room #450, Thursday, July 28, at 1:00 p.m. Thank you for your participation in bringing the message from the President.

Let me assure you, first of all, that we are backing President Reagan's foreign and home policies. However, in a constructive way I have a few very important things to point out to you, and through you to the President, which I hope you would not ignore because I am not shooting in the air. During the last 24 years I have traveled in most of the Latin American countries and the American cities in the U.S.A.

As a way of identification, I am a Cuban by birth, but an American by choice since 1953. I represent an independent, fundamental American-Spanish missionary non-profit organization. I am broadcasting religious-cultural broadcasts, EL CAMINO DE LA VIDA, in 26 Latin American countries, on 155 radio stations, including Nicaragua and to Cuba. The broadcasts are reaching approximately 40 million Spanish speaking people each week in South and Central America, the Caribbean, the U.S.A., and Spain. Twelve broadcasts a week are beamed to Cuba, with a very large radio audience there, where I still have two brothers and three sisters. We are mailing Bibles and other Gospel material to Cuba from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. In South America alone, we are broadcasting on 90 radio stations and are planning to increase as God will enable us to 300 radio stations in Latin America, aiming to reach 100 million people instead of 40 million as at present.

## THE ISSUES AND SITUATION:

CUBA: It was a shame and a painful experience to allow Cuba to become a Marxist State. We use to know the Castro family very well. Three of my brothers fought with him against Batista. Fidel Castro was not a Communist, but he wanted a new system of government in Cuba, an "Agrarian Reform"--

due to damaging abuses the majority of the people of Cuba were suffering under totalitarian regimes. As strange as it may be, the United States opposed an Agrarian Reform in Cuba, but encouraged one in El Salvador.

The arms Fidel Castro used to fight Batista were not Russian, but American. The few Communist that were then in Cuba were with Batista, and not with Fidel Castro. Batista was the first to recognize the Communist as a militant group in Cuba, and the first one to name two Communists to his cabinet against Fidel Castro.

Fidel Castro took over in Cuba in January, 1959. He then found himself against two major obstacles, which he could not face without United States help: 1. The economy of Cuba was zero and he needed financial assistance. 2. The Batista forces, the capitalistic business people who had fled the country and the Roman Catholic hierarchy, were already firing back to Fidel Castro from foreign soil, particularly from the U.S.A. There was the danger of an invasion of Cuba, while Fidel Castro was still weak.

Fidel Castro needed financial assistance and protection that only the U.S.A. government could give him. In February, 1959, he sent a message to the State Department in Washington, expressing his desire to visit Washington to present his needs and the aim of his new regime.

His message was never answered. In May, 1959 he traveled to Washington anyway, because the case was urgent. The only one who gave him an audience in Washington was Vice-President Nixon, under President Eisenhower. Nixon was not in the position to offer the Cuban leader any assistance.

Then Fidel Castro, in a desperate way, went to Wall Street, in New York. But the New York press accused him as a non-grata person, costing money to the city to protect him, money the city did not have. He did not succeed.

At that point he returned empty-handed to Havanna, facing the danger of a contra-revolution from outside. He made a speech by radio and television, in which he stated, referring to the Americans: "Now that we need your financial help to secure the aim of the revolution and protection to defend us from our enemies within and without, is denied to us, we shall go to Russia to get it..." And he did.

In those days Russia was struggling to become a major world power. She was trying to retaliate against the many bases the U.S.A. had around her, including the missiles base in Turkey and Iran. She was also trying to have a foothold in Latin America. She had failed in all her efforts, mainly because the Latins were religious people and they did not want Communism in the continent.

When Fidel Castro appealed to Russia for help, she was eager and prompt to respond. The United States underestimated Russia

and the ability of Fidel Castro. They thought that an embargo and blockade would do it to get rid of Fidel Castro.

Later on came the step by the United States that never should have been taken, to break diplomatic and commercial relations with Havanna. This was a grave political error. Why? The Americans moved out of Cuba, and the Russians moved in. The United States and Cuba became isolated from each other and Russia went in with so impetuous a rush that it provoked the 1962 missile crisis.

The Americans had the right to remain in Cuba. If the American presence would have remained there, the Russians wouldn't have gone in with so much power and liberty, and would have refrained from going too far in arming Cuba for aggression against the U.S.A. and the rest of the world.

I know that it is not the custom for a great power to bow to a small power. But the embargo and blockade of Cuba has hurt more the people of Cuba than the Castro regime. The people have suffered the need of many things, including medicine. There are many things that Fidel Castro needs for the people that Russia has not given them.

I have written two letters to the President about the situation in Latin America. I do not know even if he ever got any knowledge of them. My appraisal of the situation between Havanna and Washington is that more ground would have been gained by negotiations with Fidel Castro, than by retaliation and hostility.

I know the temper, the hot blood, and pride of Latin people: by retaliation, antagonism, menaces, and rudeness against Fidel no one would gain one inch with him. The United States would gain more ground through negotiations and commercial agreements, which would bind the strong man with the strings of negotiations and the interchange of commercial and technical necessity. I cannot know, but there is the possibility that such negotiations and trading are too late. If this is the case, we are holding a very hot potato in our hands. Following the course of a hostile relations between the United States and Cuba, Fidel Castro, with pride and antagonism, will bring more of Russia closer and closer to the United States, to show Washington what he can do. He knows that the people of the United States, the Senate and media, are divided about the issues and are more against the retaliation policy in Central America from the United States than in favor.

Due to the situation in the United States, it would be far easier for the President, and acceptable by the people, to negotiate with Fidel Castro the Cuban and Washington differences, and the issues in Central America, than to retaliate, doing it by force. This latter way only war will result, and the American people are not conditioned to settle the situation by force.

The United States is divided in the Latin America issues. Since the 1950's the American people have thrown the idea of wars out the windows. The people went into self-complacency, leaving

the cities for rural communities where they could indulge in quietness by themselves without involvement and interference. They felt that through two major wars they were forced to produce to be paid, now they want to be paid to produce. It is not all wrong, but a change took place. The problem is that the minority groups have occupied the cities, as a result the social life of the cities has changed, but also they have been struggling economically and socially.

A clear picture of the American people today as an extreme is: The people sit down to eat and drink, and raise up to play. The victory of America that will bring back to America the prestige and respect of the world is not in the sport's arena, neither in a complacent attitude. Unless there is a change in the Americans, the United States will have to join the group of Third World Nations. I hope to be found wrong.

I believe in the United States as a great nation. I believe in the President, national program, and foreign policies. I am jealous for America as a nation. I am a proud American, but my spirit is humiliated as I travel and hear the public opinions against Americans

I am also carrying on a difficult task, an independent, non-profit, religious-cultural work among the Spanish speaking people of the world, supported voluntarily by the Americans. But very often I feel frustrated by the spirit of apathy in many Christians to support it.

I want to go on the air in Central and South America on 300 radio stations, to reach 100 million people a week instead of 40 million, in view of the effervescence in that part of the world, but I cannot do it for the lack of finance.

We would like to double the broadcasts to Cuba. We have established a follow-up address in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, to correspond with Cuba, and to send Bibles and other religious material to Cuba from Mexico.

There are, among others, three radio stations well listened to in Cuba and Central America: 1. Trans World Radio in Bonaire with 500,000 Watts. 2. H.C.J.B., Quito, Ecuador, a combined power, short wave and medium wave of 1,200,000 Watts. 3. Radio 4.V.E.H., Cape Haitian, Northwestern corner of Haiti. I broadcast in all those radio stations twice a week, but I would like to increase to at least four times a week. We have also underway a project for 1,000,000 Spanish Bibles for homes in Latin America.

## CONCLUSION:

There is something in the American foreign policies that bothers me a great deal:

- l. We are preaching "Democracy" in Latin America, to a people that have lived for about 400 years in suppression, poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and misery, because the capitalistic system has not helped them. Now they want to try something else. They do not know what Communism really is, but being new to them, they want to try it. I do not believe that free election will work.
- 2. We are preaching "Freedom and Human Rights," to a people that never have seen anything else except cruelties, intolerance, humiliation, elimination of human lives by totalitarian regimes without the concern of anyone. There was a time that there were thirteen dictators in Latin America and the Caribbean simultaneously. The United States supported them, against our own way of life at home. The United States supported these dictators as long as they protected the American interests in their countries. The worst of all is that the people have been aware of the United States' double policies.
- 3. We are preaching "Free Election" to a people that for generations have not been taught how to vote. To force them now to vote, they will elect leftist candidates, for the simple reason that they want to see a change in their countries. They believe that the rebels are fighting in search of that ideal government.

Are we imposing the American culture and way of life on those people for the aid we are giving them? Shouldn't we rather work with their culture and way of life to alleviate their affliction?

Failure of the American government in Korea, in Vietnam, in Cuba, (the Bay of Pigs fiasco), and Iran have flashed signals to Latin America of America's lack of a will to fight against Communism. Therefore, Russia and Fidel Castro have become very popular.

RUSSIA: If the countries and areas of Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Aghanistan are vital to Russia's territorial defense, and the United States recognizes this claim; then Cuba, Central America, and the Caribbean areas should be equally vital to the defense of the United States. These rights should be voiced in dealing with Russia.

It is wrong to supply grains and technology to Russia, while she is planning so much aggression against the United States and which has so much money to invest for evil.

In Central America should the United States negotiate with rebels? NO; with the established governments? YES.

The United States is in the disadvantage, yet, I believe that there is still hope for America. I will back President Reagan to the end. But there is an imperative need for a change in the attitude of the American people. A come-back to God and to the Bible. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people... Proverbs 14:34.

Madame, please consider these humble but truthful thoughts and share them with President Reagan. Seek the prayer of Christian people. "God hath spoken once, twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God." Psalm 62:11.

Morent D. Toiras

FDT:gm

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1983

Mr. Neil A. Belson 12519 Eastbourne Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20904

Dear Mr. Belson:

On behalf of the President, I am responding to your letter of July 18, 1983.

Thank you for your resume and your generous offer to serve on the bipartisan commission on Central America. The President has appointed this commission, but your thoughts and ideas will be welcomed.

I would encourage you to continue to pursue your interests in foreign policy. Thank you again for your concern.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell . Special Assistant to the President

Molor Blockwell

P.S.

I have enclosed a set of the White House Digest, which deal with Central America. I hope they will be of interest.

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12519 Eastbourne Dr. Silver Spring, Md. 20904 July 18, 1983

President Ronald Reagan 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in regards to the soon-to-be formed commission on Central America, which is of great interest to me. I have had considerable experience in this region, and feel that I have a background that may be useful to the commission in its developing a policy recommendation for the region. I would like to be considered as a participant on the commission.

I realize that I do not have the long experience in politics nor the credentials that certainly many members of the commission will have. However, I have recently spent two years working in the agricultural and economic development of Central America and the Caribbean, and have gained a deep knowledge of the language and cultures of the region. As an agriculturist, I am especially familiar with the social, economic, and technical limitations which confront the large portion of the population which lives in rural areas. Also, having spent over a year living in a "barrio" in the Dominican Republic, I am aware of many of the attitudes and problems of the urban poor. I also demonstrated an effectiveness in developing original and appropriate responses (one of which, the energy farm project, is described in my resume) to the problems of Latin American poverty and underdevelopment. I believe that this experience in dealing, on an everyday basis, with a wide spectrum of Latin American society would allow me to offer the commission a different perspective on the problems which face Central America.

Mr. President, I share your deep preoccupation with the future of Central America. At present, I am doing research on development alternatives for this region. The present situation obviously poses many dangers for the U.S. However, I feel it also offers many opportunities. In spite of some hostility toward America which exists in the region, most people still admire our country for our many achievements and our democracy. Though we cannot neglect our immediate security needs, we must also show the people of Central America that we are truly concerned for their welfare. If we convince them through our long-term policies that we are care about their interests as well as our own, and that we are willing to respect them as equals in our hemisphere, then we have the opportunity to win many permanent friends in this region. I believe that my experience and deep interest in dealing with the attitudes and problems of Latin Americans could serve the committee in developing policy recommendations which will help achieve these goals. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully upurs, feet ( Balern Neil A. Belson

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1983

Mr. Carlos Anzoategui Executive Director Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs 817 Silver Spring Drive Suite 404 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Anzoategui:

On behalf of the President, I am responding to your mailgram of July 20, 1983.

Your offer to help with the Central America initiative is very generous and certainly is appreciated. I am glad you have been able to attend the Wednesday briefings of our White House Outreach Working Group.

Again thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Special Assistant to the President

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JUL 2 1 1983

PRESIDENT UNITED STATES WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

Sestion .

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I APPLAUD AND COMMEND YOUR DECISION TO CREATE A BI-PARTISAN COMMISSION TO FIND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO STRIFE AND ECONOMIC BLIGHT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE FROBLEM IN THE PAST HAS BEEN THAT NO NATIVE FROM ANY CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY HAS EVER FORMED PART OF ANY SUCH TASK FORCE OR COMMISSION, THE VALUABLE ADVICE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THESE PERSONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN WASTED, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE IN THE WASHINGTON DC AREA A GREAT RESERVOIR OF TALENT OF NATIVES OF EACH CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY THAT CAN BE TAPPED TO SERVE THE INTEREST OF THE LNITED STATES TOWARDS FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS CENTRAL AMERICAN MALACY.

AS A NATIVE OF NICARAGUA, NICARAGUA IS MY MOTHER; AS A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AND A RESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY FOR 36 YEARS, THE UNITED STATES IS MY ADOPTIVE FATHER; I KNOW BOTH COUNTRY'S IDIOSYNCRACIES, WAY OF LIFE, INTIMATE FEELINGS, ALL FACTORS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO INFUSE A KNOWLEDGEABLE AMOUNT OF WISDOM OF THE AREA INTO THE WORK OF YOUR COMMISSION.

I STAND READY AT YOUR COMMAND TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT WHICH YOU, MR PRESIDENT, AS MY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MAY SEE FIT TO ASSIGN ME, WHETHER AS A MEMBER, DESERVER, PARTICIPANT OR JUST A MERE ADVISER AND COUNSELOR.

MEANTIME PLEASE HAVE MY WARMEST REGARDS AND BEST WISHES, BUENA SUERTE, Y QUE DIOS ME LO BENDIGA,

SINCERAMENTE,
CARLOS ANZOATEGUI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
HISPANIC AFFAIRS STATE OF MARYLAND

00:09 EST

SALUDOS

MGMCCMP

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1983

Dr. Whittle Johnson
Department of Government and
Foreign Affairs
232 Cabell Hall
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Faith Ryan Whittlesey has asked me to respond to your letter of June 24, 1983.

Thank you for your generous offer. To provide further information for your use in writing, I am enclosing with this letter copies of the White House Digest. I hope this information will be helpful.

I would also like to inform you of our weekly Central America Outreach meetings that are held in the Old Executive Office Building each Wednesday. These briefings draw leaders of many supportive groups. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings. You can get more detailed information from my office at (202) 456-2657.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Mater E Burhall

Special Assistant to the President

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the Correspondence Tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901 TELEPHONE 804-924-3192

WOODROW WILSON DEPARTMENT
OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
232 CABELL HALL

151635

June 24, 1983

Mrs. Faith Ryan Whittlesey Director, Office of Public Liaison The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Whittlesey:

I am very glad to see that the Central American Policy Outreach Group is attempting to marshall wider public support for the Administration's policy in Latin America.

During the 1980 campaign I served as a member of Mr. Reagan's Foreign Policy Advisory Group. Since that time I have sought to help in any way I could to win public support for the President's policies. In public lectures, writings for the local (and occasionally national) press, and in other ways I have tried to counter the ill-informed criticisms directed at the Administration. Enclosed are two recent contributions to our local debate. In this community there are, unfortunately, a number of well-organized and articulate critics of the President's foreign policies, particularly in the areas of defense and Central America.

If it would be of help to your efforts, I would be glad to do an article for our local paper to set forth the persuasive reasons behind our Central American policy. I receive all the critical materials from the State Department, Defense Department, etc; but would welcome any additional materials you might have to try to counter the many misrepresentations one often finds in print or hears at public lectures. I am also in Washington periodically, and would be glad to pick up any of these materials directly, if you think this more convenient.

Sincerely yours,

Whitele Johnston
Professor

P.S. In the enclosed article on INF deployment, the typesetter left out a line in the next-to-the-last paragraph, which makes the dual-track decision sound garbled.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29,1983

Ms. Nancy O. Lewis
Special Assistant to the
Ambassador-at-Large
Department of State
Washington DC 20520

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Thank you for the collection of excerpts from the Ambassador's speeches. They will be very useful in my work on Central America.

It is good to hear that Ambassador Walters' talk generated those additional speaking requests. This is one kind of good result from the Outreach meetings.

We have been unsuccessful in obtaining transcripts of Ambassador Walters' June 24 talk. We are, however, having a transcript prepared of his excellent August 24 remarks to our White House Outreach Working Group briefing. We will send a copy to you promptly.

Again, my sincere appreciation for your enclosure and for all of your support. Let me know if we can ever help you.

Sincerely,

Faith Ryan Whittlesey Assistant to the President

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Office of the

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE WASHINGTON

July 19, 1983

The Honorable
Faith Whittlesey:
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ambassador Whittlesey:

As you requested following Ambassador Walters' talk to the Outreach Group on 29 June, I have enclosed for your use a collection of excerpts from other speeches he has given. If your office was successful in getting a transcript of his remarks to your Outreach Group on the 29th from one of the people who recorded them, we would appreciate getting a copy.

As a result of his talk that day, several requests have come in through Mr. Droge for Ambassador Walters to speak around the country, and he will do whatever he can.

It was a pleasure to see you again, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in your very important endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mancy O Lewis

Special Assistant to the Ambassador-at-Large

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1983

Dr. Mikulas Ferjencik
President
Czechoslovak National Council
of America
2137 Lombard Ave., South
Room 202
Cicero, IL 60650

Dear Dr. Ferjencik:

On behalf of the President, I am acknowledging your letter of August 1, 1983.

Thank you for your words of support and your keen analysis of the mechanics of Marxist-Leninist behavior. We must have as a goal democratically elected governments in Central America.

Again thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Special Assistant to the President

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FERJENCIK

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ORGANIZATION: CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF

AMERICA

MIKULAS

STREET: ROOM 202

2137 SOUTH LOMBARD AVENUE

CITY: CHICAGO

STATE: IL ZIP: 60650

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT AND VIEWS REGARDING CENTRAL AMERICAN

POLICY

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Czechoslovak National Council of America

August 1.1983

A non-profit organization

founded in 1918

2137 SOUTH LOMBARD AVENUE

**ROOM 202** 

CICERO, ILLINOIS 60650

**TELEPHONE: 656-1117** 

Dear President Reagan.

We support a strong U.S. policy in Central America. If we do not stop the spread of Soviet-managed regimes, they will soon control Mexico also and stand on our borders. It will become extremely costly to defend our independence.

While some of the existing regimes in Latin America are unpleasant and should be replaced by something better, they should, under no circumstances, be replaced by communistcontrolled regimes as cruel as communism is. The populations of Cambodia and Vietnam still testify to this daily.

A political solution of free elections must be our first choice. However, forcing this on a country by participating in a government controlled by terrorists and guerillas prior to free elections is not a political solution, but barely disguised surrender. Once terrorists and guerillas share power, they never allow free elections. There are dozens of examples stretching from China to Nicaragua. We do not want an Afganistan in our backyard.

Czecholovak National Council, of America

N Minhs Fengener

Dr. Mikulas Ferjencik President

HONORARY PRESIDENTS:

VLASTA A. VRAZ DR. JAN PAPANEK DR. FRANCIS SCHWARZENBERG

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

DR. MIKULAS FERJENCIK

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Society of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Jan Micka National Alliance of Czech Catholics

Frank Desensky Rev. Vojtech Vit, O.S.B.

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

August 29, 1983

Mr. Carlos Anzoategui Executive Director Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs 817 Silver Spring Drive Suite 404 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Anzoategui:

On behalf of the President, I am responding to your mailgram of July 20, 1983.

Your offer to help with the Central America initiative is very generous and certainly is appreciated. I am glad you have been able to attend the Wednesday briefings of our White House Outreach Working Group.

Again thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Morton C, Blackwell

Special Assistant to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON August 25, 1983 Reverend Monsignor Daniel F. Hoye, General Secretary United States Catholic Conference 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005 Dear Monsignor Hoye: Outreach Working Group on Central America.

Thank you for your letter of August 11th regarding the August 10th Washington Post story about the White House

As I am sure you can affirm, media interviews do not always result in stories focused on topics of most concern to the interviewees. From the story and, particularly, the headline it appeared that my purpose in granting the interview was to deliver an attack on incorrect reporting and distortions relating to our Central American policy. Not so. I was probably more surprised than you at how the story came out.

My intention was to respond to the reporters' interest in the activities of our working group. I prepared a detailed chronology of our briefings, list of speakers, materials generated by groups we have briefed, etc. It may very well be that my brief comment about biased information from some sources was the most newsworthy aspect of an almost two hour interview, but that was not my intention.

At no time have I referred explicitly or implicitly to the Central American policy views of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

I agree with you that it is desirable for us to have better dialogue with Catholic leaders. Therefore, I have directed Linas Kojelis of my staff to set up an appropriate briefing and opportunity for discussion. He will be contacting your office.

Sincerely,

Faith Ryan Whittlesey, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison

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## UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

MOST REVEREND JOHN R. ROACH, D.D.,

ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

President

AJE 15

REVEREND MONSIGNOR DANIEL F. HOYE

General Secretary

REVEREND RONALD C. ANDERSON
Associate General Secretary

REVEREND DONALD E. HEINTSCHEL

August 11, 1983

Ms. Faith Ryan Whittlesey The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Whittlesey:

I am writing to you in connection with a front-page story in The Washington Post (August 10, 1983) in which you are interviewed by Lou Cannon. In reference to the Media, you are quoted as accusing this group of "deliberate distortion" and of using "similar language" to criticize "American church leaders".

Although the article covers more than thirty-two inches of type, you never get around to identifying who the "church leaders" are to whom you make reference. Mr. Cannon uses the phrase "major U. S. churches." Since the Catholic Church is the largest religious denomination in the United States, and an active participant in the debate on Central America policy, readers of The Washington Post might legitimately conclude that your reference at least included the Catholic Church.

Do you have any evidence that Catholic "church leaders" have in fact indulged in "deliberate distortion" in any public statements on Central America? Has any Catholic church leader in public statements or official testimony ever referred to the Sandinistas "as Robin Hoods, essentially fighting for social justice"?

I hope you will take time to respond to these questions in your own name or in the name of the Administration. Previous efforts by this Conference to arrange a meeting with your office have proved fruitless, and messages left have remained unanswered. It should also be noted that, although other religious denominations have been invited to your meetings, the U. S. Catholic Conference has no record of being asked to attend any meetings of the White House Outreach Working Group on Central America. Perhaps you can clarify your position on these matters at the same time.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye General Secretary

Daniel &. Somme

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 25, 1983

Reverend Monsignor Daniel F. Hoye, General Secretary United States Catholic Conference 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

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Sincerely,

Faith Ryan Whittlesey, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison

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## NITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

MOST REVEREND JOHN R. ROACH, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS President

AF 15

REVEREND MONSIGNOR DANIEL F. HOYE General Secretary

REVEREND RONALD C. ANDERSON Associate General Secretary

REVEREND DONALD E. HEINTSCHEL

August 11, 1983

Ms. Faith Ryan Whittlesey The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

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Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye

Daniel F. Sange

General Secretary

## THE WHITE HOUSE

August 22, 1983

Mr. Carlos Benitez Chairman National Coalition for a Free Cuba PAC 1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW Suite 604 Washington D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Benitez:

Thank you for your recommendation of Jorge L. Mas for the bipartisan commission on Central America.

Judging from his resume, Mr. Mas looks to be quite a leader and a very knowledgeable man on Central America. Although the commission has already been named, I would urge that Mr. Mas continue to let his opinions on the Central America challenge be heard.

I understand that both of you attend the regular Central America Outreach Meeting that is coordinated through the Office of Public Liaison. This regular gathering of representatives of organizations is an essential element in our efforts to mobilize support for the President's policy on Central America. I would like to thank you for your support, and I would like to urge that you pass the names of anyone who you feel should be attending the Outreach Meetings on to Morton Blackwell, the member of my staff in charge of these meetings.

The effort to guarantee a democratic and prosperous Central America will be a long and challenging task, and the success of this effort hinges on hard work and support from people like you. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President

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| ACTION CODES:  A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be | I - Info Copy Only/<br>R - Direct Reply w<br>S - For Signature<br>X - Interim Reply |                |  | ed<br>ecial Referral<br>ted | OR OUTGOING COI<br>Type of Response =<br>Code =<br>Completion Date = | = initials<br>= "A"    | of Signer       |
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July 18, 1983

JUL 20 1983

Honorable Faith Whittlesey Assistant to the President for Public Liaison White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Whittlesey:

I want to thank you for meeting with members of our organization during our visit to Washington last Wednesday.

As we expressed to you we are very much concerned with the American public opinion and the general perception of the real problem in Central America.

The Cuban American National Foundation has published a number of research papers, organized seminars and has tried to keep members of Congress informed, realizing it is perhaps, in Congress where the lack of understanding and knowledge of the Central America area is most critical and decisive for the future and safety of our hemisphere.

I read in the Miami Herald that President Reagan will designate a bipartisan commission that will study economic and military options for the United States in Central America. It is in this area that our members have the greatest interest and first hand knowledge since most of us have business and political dealings with leaders in Central America.

I am recomending that Jorge Mas, Chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation be included among those that will be part of the commission. He could be a significant contributor to the commission and its efforts to arrive at a feasible option that could bring peace, prosperity and security to Central America while promoting the best interests of our hemisphere.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely your Carlos Benitez, Chairm

#### JORGE L. MAS

6305 S.W. 128th St. Miami, Florida 33156

Bus. (305) 233-6540 Res. (305) 666-1075

## PERSONAL DATA

Born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba; September 1939. Married. Three children. 5' 10". 160 lbs.

## EDUCATION

University of Oriente, Cuba - Law School Presbyterian Jr. College, Maxton, North Carolina - High School Diploma and Junior College. Instituto Santiago de Cuba, Cuba - High School.

## EXPERIENCE

- Currently, President and owner of Church and Tower of Florida, Inc. a Florida firm of Engineering Contractors.

  Land developer and Investor. Editor of RECE, one of the oldest Cuban monthly publications.
- 1964-1968 Elected to represent the Cuban exiles in a world-wide referendum. Served as an Executive Member of RECE (Cuban Representation of Exiles). Responsible for three weekly commentaries on WMIE Radio Station in Miami.
- 1963 Graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.
- 1960-1961 Made bi-weekly radio broadcasts to Cuba through Stations WRUL and SWAN. Served as a member of the invasion forces at the Bay of Pigs.
- An expert in Cuban issues has lectured widely at Universities such as Texas A.M. and others. Has been a guest on national television programs such as Firing Line with William Buckley and interviewed on same subject by Barbara Walters. He is also a frequent contributor to Diario Las Americas, the most important spanish daily newspaper in the United States.

MEMBERSHIP Chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, AND CIVIC a non-profit organization with offices in ACTIVITIES Washington, D.C. and Miami.

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Presidential Commission on Radio Broadcasting to Cuba. Elected to its Executive Committee together with Mr. Clifton White and Senator Richard Stone.

Trustee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Member of the Board of Directors of OF HUMAN RIGHTS, an independent human rights project focusing on Cuba associated with Georgetown University and based in Washington, D.C.

Member of the Republican Senatorial Trust.

Former member of the Planning and Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Government of Dade County, Florida.

Director of the Y.M.C.A. International Jose Marti.

Member of the Pillars Club of the United Way of Dade County.

Member of Latin Chamber of Commerce, Latin Builders Association and Industrial Association of Dade County.

HONORS

Recipient of the Lincoln-Marti Award granted by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare "for extraordinary and meritorious performance of civic duty in the United States of America".

Recipient of Diplomas and Awards from various local civic groups including the Y.M.C.A. and the United Way.

Ph. D. Honoris Causa from Mercy College of New York for "outstanding services in behalf of democracy and human rights".

REFERENCES

U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins, Washington, D.C.

Former U.S. Senator Richard Stone, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Horacio Aguirre, Editor Diario Las Americas, Miami, Florida.

Mr. Aristides Sastre, President Republic National Bank, Miami; and Regional Director of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.

Addresses and telephones upon request

#### RESUME

#### PERSONAL

Name: Carlos Benitez

Address: 5800 S.W. 94th Place, Miami, Florida

Age: 40 years old

Status: Married Children: Three

#### EDUCATION

University of Miami Graduate School

Coral Gables, Florida Bachelor of Business Administration, 1968

Miami Dade Jr. College Associate in Arts, 1965

Miami, Florida

Loyola Military Academy Bachelor in Science

Habana, Cuba

### EXPERIENCE

<u>President</u> - Loyola School 1975 to present - Loyola School, largest private bilingual school in South Florida, is a coeducational total learning environment institution, combining the most advanced educational methods with the highest moral values, providing instruction from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, located on 10 acres of land at 10375 Coral Way, Miami, Florida.

Vice Chairman - Advisory Board - Loyola School 1973 to 1975.

Executive Vice President - Administrator - Complete responsibility for the management of Samaritan Medical Center for six years 1967-1972 accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

<u>Executive Vice President</u> - <u>East Hollywood General Hospital</u>. Responsible for planning, designing, development and contracting of a 200-bed general hospital.

## Hospital Consultant

Hospital Corporation of America - North Shore Hospital, Miami, Florida complete financial and need study 1972 for the Department of HEW.

University General Hospital, Tamarac, Florida. Complete financial feasibility for F.H.A. Section 242, first proprietary Hospital approved for F.H.A. financing in the country.

Parkwood General Hospital, Tampa, Florida. Complete financial feasibility for proposed Hospital and Out-Patient Clinic, project was approved for F.H.A. financing in 1971.

Controller- Deel Ford, Bird Road, Inc., Miami, Florida. Full charge of accounting and finance for 15 months. 1966-67.

Supervisor of International Accounts - Eastern Airlines. 1965-66.

PROFESSIONAL, COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATIONS (Present & Past)
Member of the following Board of Directors

International Center of Florida
Cuban American National Foundation
Citizens' Crime Commission of Greater Miami
Miami Lions Club
Florida Victory Committee
1992 Florida Columbus Exposition (Trustee)
Partners for Youth
United Way of Dade County (Community Pilar Member)
Council for Inter American Security Educational Institute, WashingtonD
Thomas Jefferson Educational Foundation, Washington, D.C.
Of Human Rights, Washington, D.C.

## Additional Memberships

City of Miami Sister City Advisory Board
Dade County Transportation Advisory Committee
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Latin Chamber of Commerce
Licensed as a Mortgage Broker

### Past Memberships

Advanced Member Hospital Financial Management Association
Member of the National Council of Nursing Home Administrators
Member of American College of Nursing Home Administrators
Member of Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Member of Florida Planning and Zoning Association
Licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator by the State of Florida
Florida International University - Member of the Advisory Board
Cuban American Institute

### COMMENDATIONS

City of Miami Metropolitan Dade County City of Sweetwater

### POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

Chairman, National Coalition for a Free Cuba (PAC)
Member of National Republican Congressional Committee
Member of Republican Senatorial Inner Circle (Charter Member)
Member of U.S. Senatorial Business Advisory Board (Chairman's Committee)
Actively participated in Republican Politics in New York and Florida
Member of the Republican Party
Member of the Republican Florida Victory Committee
Eagle Republican - RNC - President's Club
Member of the 1981 Presidential Inaugural Committee
Member of the Presidential Task Force
Completed the Following Seminars

Eleventh Annual Short Course - sponsored by Florida Nursing Home Association in cooperation with the Florida State Board of Health, April 1969.

<u>Financial Management Workshop</u> - sponsored by American Nursing Home Association, held at St. Thomas, Virgin Island, April 1970.

Annual Workshop in Planning and Zoning - sponsored by the University of Miami and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association, held at the University of Miami, November 1971.

The Role of the Medical Director in the Long-Term Care Facility - sponsored by the American Medical Association, held in Miami, approved for 15 hour credits.

Pharmaceutical Services in Institutions - sponsored by U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, held in Hollywood, October 1973.

Ambulatory Short-Stay Surgery Program - sponsored by the American Academy of Medical Administrators, held in Las Vegas, November 1973.

#### Travel

Extensive traveling and personal knowledgesof the following countries in order of degree of experience.

Dominican Republic
Jamaica
Mexico
Spain
Costa Rica
Guatemala
Venezuela

Ecuador
Argentina
Panama
Canada
England
Italy
Saudi Arabia