

Hillary Clinton Opposes Move to Grant Residency

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SYRACUSE, N.Y., April 1 — Hillary Rodham Clinton today opposed congressional action to make Elian Gonzalez a U.S. resident, putting her at odds with Vice President Gore.

"Hillary Clinton knows that we must take politics out of this decision," said Clinton Senate campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson, echoing President Clinton's position. "Elian's future should be determined as quickly as possible through the appropriate, ongoing legal process."

Gore, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, urged Congress this week to pass a law that would grant permanent resident status to 6-year-old Elian, his father, stepmother, half-brother, grandmothers and grandfather.

Hillary Clinton, a Democrat, is running for the Senate against New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, who maintains that the boy should be granted U.S. citizenship and that any custody issues should be handled in family court.

Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, will come to the United States as soon as he is assured that he will be given custody of his son, said his lawyer, Gregory B. Craig. Craig said he also will seek permission for the boy's classmates, teacher and doctors to travel to the United States.

Elian was rescued in November after the boat he was on sank. His mother drowned in the attempt to flee Cuba. Elian has been living with Miami relatives who have refused to allow him to leave, although the Immigration and Naturalization Service has ruled that he belongs with his Cuban father.

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Mlene Murphy

OF (Organization)

ABC

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☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

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MESSAGE

Response to Elian
Torres' relatives letter
to Mrs Clinton asking
for help (as a mother)

RECEIVED BY

DATE

3/28

TIME

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Told her we have
not received the
letter. (Alice has
been looking out
for it.)

Karen Dunn says
they've not received
it either.

86/E

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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SECTION: PART A; NATION; INSIDE THE BELTWAY; Pg. A5

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BYLINE: John McCaslin; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

UNABLE TO RESPOND

Marisleysis Gonzalez, cousin to 6-year-old Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez, will not be happy to learn that the letter she sent a month ago to Hillary Rodham Clinton - begging the first lady, as a mom, to use her influence to help her family keep Elian in the United States - apparently got lost in the mail.

"We have not received the letter," Toby Graff, the first lady's spokeswoman, told Inside the Beltway yesterday.

Meaning, for now at least, that Mrs. Clinton won't be put in the awkward position (like Al Gore earlier this week) of once again distancing herself from another of her husband's controversial policy decisions.

Asked about Elian on the campaign trail in New York, Mrs. Clinton would only say the Cuban boy shouldn't be used as a political football, adding that whatever decision is reached, it should be in the best interest of the child.

In her letter the White House can't find, Mrs. Gonzalez was hoping for a stronger voice from the normally outspoken Mrs. Clinton.

"We beg you now, as a mother, to be the first lady that truly crosses ethnic barriers and speaks out for the children," the letter read. "Please, please help."

TIME FOR REFLECTION

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich may have titled his upcoming talk "Reflections of a Private Citizen," but that doesn't mean he'll be discussing his own private matters.

Meaning, of late, his nasty divorce proceedings and revelations from same of his six-year adulterous affair with a young congressional aide.

Instead, the first Republican speaker in four decades, who almost fooled everybody with his "family values" sermons, will after 20 years as a member of Congress and one year as a private citizen share his thoughts on: the legacy of the Clinton administration (no doubt a change of heart from a year ago), the state of American politics, the elections of 2000, and what Americans should expect from their government in the 21st century.

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HEADLINE: NATION IN BRIEF

BODY:

Cuban Boy's Plight Could Become Factor for N.Y. Senate Candidates

MIAMI--Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old Cuban castaway, could become an issue in the New York Senate race. Yesterday, as one of his cousins wrote to Hillary Rodham Clinton, urging her to use her clout as first lady to help the boy stay in Miami rather than return to his father in Cuba, aides to New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani proposed having Elian help drop the crystal ball in Times Square on New Year's Eve.

The boy represents "what America means--freedom, the right to choose," said one aide who attended a closed-door meeting to discuss the idea with Giuliani.

In a letter addressed to "Mrs. Hillary Rotham Clinton," Marisleysis Gonzalez wrote: "We beg you now as a mother, to be the First Lady that truly crosses all ethnic barriers and speaks out for the children. Please, please help."

Cuban President Fidel Castro told NBC's "Today" he believed President Clinton was eager to return the boy to his father, "the sooner the better."

Last week, Clinton said the issue should not involve politics and said the law should be followed in determining the fate of the boy.

Murder Plot by DEA Agent Alleged

BROWNSVILLE, Tex.--A Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Mexico is accused of trying to hire someone to kill a teenager suspected in the 1995 slaying of his cousin.

Authorities allege that Salvador Michael Martinez, 37, tried to hire someone to kill a Mexican teenager who was charged but not convicted in the 1995 death of Lionel "Bruno" Jordan, whose brother, Phil Jordan, at the time was a top DEA