

Chron



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2 APPLETON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

9 January 1998

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

'98 JAN 23 PM1

Dear Bill,

I am writing this time to ask you to consider a humanitarian act that I believe is well within the authority of your office and consistent with your policies and personal values.

I would like you to consider helping Hernando Soto Rodriguez, by *expediting his petition for asylum*

1-23-98

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Over the years he repeatedly declined offers to join the Communist Party. In 1993, the Speaker of the Cuban Parliament learned that Hernando had made private comments about Cuban government repressiveness. The next day he was accused of "defamation" of government by the Party Secretary and the State Security Officer from the Prime Minister's Office. However, they gave him a "second chance" by sending him for "treatment" at the "Severe Patient Ward," and demoted him for one year from translator to janitor. The Security Officer warned him that were he not to "keep his mouth shut," he would be "put away for life."

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Dear Bill,

I am writing this time to ask you to consider a humanitarian act that I believe is well within the authority of your office and consistent with your policies and personal values.

I would like you to consider helping Hernando Soto Rodriguez, by *expediting his petition for asylum for humanitarian reasons.*

I met him ten years ago when he performed simultaneous translations for our family in Cuba during our Christmas visit to my daughter, Jessica, who was spending her junior year at Brown studying at the University of Havana. Dick stayed in touch with Hernando and commended him to his superiors for friendliness, broad knowledge, and exceptional translation skills.

We recently learned of his family's predicament.

In 1986, as a diplomatic Attaché to the Cuban Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, Hernando attended a French reception where he met the family of the U.S. Vice-Consul and later had lunch with them. After Cuban authorities accused him of being a CIA agent, he was recalled home, arrested, tortured, and expelled from his foreign service post. He and his family were subjected to continuous persecution and investigation.

Over the years he repeatedly declined offers to join the Communist Party. In 1993, the Speaker of the Cuban Parliament learned that Hernando had made private comments about Cuban government repressiveness. The next day he was accused of "defamation" of government by the Party Secretary and the State Security Officer from the Prime Minister's Office. However, they gave him a "second chance" by sending him for "treatment" at the "Severe Patient Ward," and demoted him for one year from translator to janitor. The Security Officer warned him that were he not to "keep his mouth shut," he would be "put away for life."

In September, 1997, after a year of petitioning the Cuban government, he and his wife entered the U.S. on 6-month tourist visas (B-2) so that his wife could have very specialized reconstructive surgery for a childhood eye injury; the operation was performed *gratis* (and successfully) by Dr. Thomas Baker of Miami. Their permission to go to the U.S. had been contingent on their leaving behind their 13 year old daughter. She is a remarkably talented and accomplished girl who is fluent in English. She and her parents miss each other terribly, even though they have been separated only three months now.

Under ordinary circumstances, the parents will have to wait about a year to get residence and work permits. More distressing, their daughter might not be able to enter the US for another five years.

However, these delays could be reduced if you suggested that the asylum case be expedited to unite a minor with her parents as quickly as feasible. In order to do so, you probably need only ask that the case (Asylum Case Number 75376883 of Hernando Soto Rodriguez) be given directly to the INS District Director in Miami, in whose office the application currently resides.

I hope that this matter does not represent too much of an imposition on your time and office.

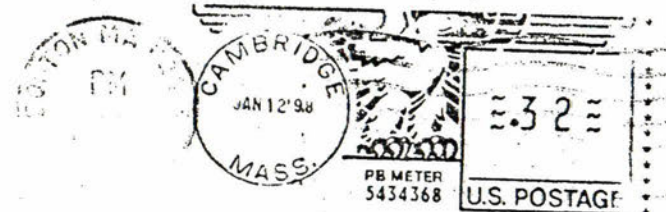
I shall continue to stay in touch with you on other matters. Congratulations on your new child-center and health care initiatives, as well as your spotlighting the need for dialogue on race. Your stamina is amazing as you simultaneously prepare the way for the future of the Democratic Party and continue to make the most of these last two years in the White House.

With warmest regards to Hillary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura".

Laura R. Chasin

2 APPLETON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138



*President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000*

RECEIVED

JAN 13 08:18

MAIL ROOM

20500/2000



Phil
As the Pres
this?
M

98 JAN 23 PM 2:30

I write to let you know of my resignation as Director of the White House Gift Unit. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and the First Lady in this unique capacity.

Shortly after graduating college in 1990, I came to the Gift Unit as an intern. At the time, Gift Unit operations were based on oral tradition. The last several years have been challenging. I was pleased to help develop gift policy, office procedure, and design the software tracking system.

I have grown to love the Gift Unit very much. Of course, it has been a joy to contribute in a way that touches your lighter side.

Your accomplishments as President have been amazing. And, I am so proud to have been the small part of your team that I was.

Again, thank you. It has truly been an honor.

Sincerely,

Michelle A.

Michelle A. Houston
Director, Gift Unit

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1-23-98
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

'98 JAN 23 PM 2:30

December 20, 1997

Dear Mr. President:

I write to let you know of my resignation as Director of the White House Gift Unit. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and the First Lady in this unique capacity.

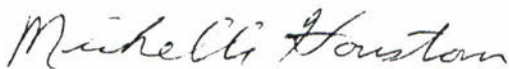
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I have grown to love the Gift Unit very much. Of course, it has been a joy to contribute in a way that touches your lighter side.

Your accomplishments as President have been amazing. And, I am so proud to have been the small part of your team that I was.

Again, thank you. It has truly been an honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle A. Houston".

Michelle A. Houston
Director, Gift Unit

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT ✓

FROM: MICHAEL WALDMAN *MW*
SUBJECT: ATTACHED FOREIGN POLICY SECTION

✓
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Stern
Also to
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Attached is the foreign policy section, prepared by the NSC, which was not included in the draft you were given yesterday. Foreign policy will be the central topic of discussion at the speech prep meeting we will have with you shortly.

This would run 10 minutes in length. It does not include the discussion of international economics, or of climate change, which appear in different parts of the speech.

There will be some edits and revisions, which we can discuss with you in person.

1/22/98 11:30am

FOREIGN POLICY SECTION
1998 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

And just as we must advance our security at home, abroad America must act to advance its security – addressing old realities and new threats.

In this century, the American people have agreed that our nation has a unique responsibility to lead. As a result, we are more secure and prosperous than ever. And we have been given an extraordinary opportunity and corresponding responsibility to build a new era of peace and security.

But today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees. We are making the new economy a rising tide of opportunity by tearing down trade barriers. But too many people still bear its burdens without reaping its benefits. We are helping age-old enemies make peace. But the poisoned appeals of extreme nationalism and racial and religious hatreds still summon humanity's capacity for evil. We prevailed in the superpower stand-off. But dangerous conflicts between nations persist. And we remain vulnerable to an unholy axis of new threats: terrorism, international crime and drug trafficking. These 21st century predators feed on the power of technology and the free flow of information, ideas and people we cherish -- and they have no respect for borders.

To meet these challenges, we are pursuing a new security strategy -- adapting old

institutions to new demands, forging new alliances and backing them where necessary with America's military might. Brick by brick, we are building a solid structure for America's security in the 21st century.

Here are some of the pieces of this strategy we must put in place together -- this year.

First, in a few days, I will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to make three of Europe's new democracies -- Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic -- the newest members of NATO. For fifty years, the alliance kept America and Western Europe secure. Now, America is leading the way in transforming NATO for the 21st century. By taking in new members, working with new partners, and cooperating closely with Russia and Ukraine, we can extend the frontiers of peace and security -- and build a future in which Europe never again unleashes the horrors we have seen in this century. I ask the Senate to say yes to NATO's historic enlargement.

Second, I will ask this Congress to continue its support for our troops in Bosnia. For four years, Bosnia was mired in the deep freeze of destruction. Now, it has begun to grow again in the sunlight of peace.

This Christmas, I traveled to Bosnia with Senator Dole and a bipartisan Congressional delegation. We agreed that progress is unmistakable. But it is not yet irreversible. To take firm root, Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the secure environment only an international military force can provide. That is why I believe that American troops should take part in a follow-on

security force when the current NATO mission ends in June. Senator Dole said it best: this is like being in a football game, we're ahead and it's the fourth quarter. Who wants to walk off the field and forfeit the game? We should stay, finish the game and take home the win for the world and for peace.

All of us on that trip were especially proud to visit with our troops in Tuzla. After five years as President, there is one thing I know with certainty: give our men and women in uniform a clear and purposeful mission and they deliver. We must make it our mission to deliver for them. My balanced budget will allow us to keep our troops well-trained and ready... improve their quality of life... and pay for the 21st century technology they need to defeat any enemy. By giving the budget your support, you will give America's soldiers our support. They earn it every day.

Third, I ask Congress to join me in pursuing the most ambitious agenda to fight the threat of weapons of mass destruction since the atom was split.

This year, the longest sought prize in arms control history, first proposed by President Eisenhower, is within our reach: the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. By banning all nuclear tests, we can help prevent a new nuclear arms race and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to develop these devices of destruction. [Endorsement announcement to come]. I ask the Senate: before this session of Congress ends, ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons..

Even as we lift the nuclear threat that has hung over our heads for fifty years, we are meeting a new hazard: rogue states, terrorists and organized criminals armed with chemical and biological weapons.

Over the past six-and-half years, international weapons inspectors in Iraq have been the eyes and ears of the international community. They have destroyed more of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons potential than during the Gulf War itself. Saddam Hussein evicted the inspectors because they were doing their job too well. That's why the international community insisted that they return to Baghdad. That is where they will stay until Iraq dismantles its weapons program -- no ifs, no ands, no buts.

At the very moment the UN inspectors are working to protect our children, Congress' failure to pass bipartisan legislation to pay our UN debt threatens to pull the rug out from under our influence with the UN -- and our credibility around the world. When America gives its word, America should keep its word. Let's pay our bills.

Last year, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention. This year, I call on you to pass legislation that will put this treaty into force. We made a commitment to protect our soldiers and citizens from poison gas attack. We should make good on it.

We also must act to prevent an even more lethal threat: the use of disease as a weapon of war and terror. Our first priority should be to stop countries from acquiring biological weapons.

The Biological Weapons Convention, in force for 25 years, lacks tough enforcement measures. This year, I am determined to secure, as part of that treaty, an international inspection system to deter cheating. We must act so that the 21st century does not go forward under a new cloud of fear. The safety of our children depends on it.

There are times when only America's moral strength and military might make the difference between war and peace... chaos and security... tyranny and freedom. If we forget this inescapable lesson of the 20th century, then we will pay a price for our indifference in the 21st. America has the will to advance progress and the power to get the job done. We should embrace this awesome responsibility for the opportunity it brings -- to shape a future more peaceful, prosperous and secure than the past. That is our chance and our challenge. We must seize it.



THE DIRECTOR

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

January 21, 1998

98 JAN 21 PM 8:28

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-23-98

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Raines
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Franklin D. Raines

SUBJECT: **Veterans Education and Training Benefits Initiatives**

This is to inform you of new veterans programs included in the FY 1999 Budget utilizing tobacco offsets. As you know, the budget will again propose legislation to reverse a recent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) legal opinion awarding VA disability benefits for smoking-related disabilities acquired after service, but due to nicotine dependence begun in the military. This proposal will be seen as "taking away" benefits, so we included in the FY 1999 budget \$87 million (\$0.4 billion over 5 years) in discretionary funds for a new veterans smoking-cessation program.

However, the total benefits that would be eliminated by the legislation are much larger. Deputy Secretary Guber met with me and my staff to stress the Department's strong feeling that the veterans groups and the Congress would consider the smoking-cessation program too little compensation for what will clearly be a difficult vote. Without something much more substantial, VA expects that Congress will not pass the legislation and Veterans Service Organizations will criticize the Administration for proposing it.

To help address this concern, we have raised our estimate of the PAYGO savings from \$15.5 billion to \$17 billion and, using the resulting PAYGO credits as offset, have included an additional \$1.5 billion of resources over 5 years for expanded veterans benefits. **We worked with VA to develop a combination of education and training programs that would benefit veterans, would fit into your overall agenda, and would likely be supported by Congress and veterans organizations.** Our proposals:

- Provide a \$100 million increase each year (\$500 million over 5 years) to VA readjustment benefits. These funds will be transferred to programs in the Department of Labor that provide assistance to veterans, with a special focus on veterans of the Vietnam era and their special training and retraining needs. Since almost 30% of adult males are veterans, this would particularly help older displaced workers. It would double the current DOL program. This will add new resources to our efforts to make worker training and retraining universally available.

- Provide a one-time increase of 20% for education benefits to veterans, dependents, and survivors under the Montgomery GI Bill (\$1.0 billion over 5 years). An increase in this program has been a major objective both of the VA and the veterans organizations, and it will be very well-received. This is consistent with our effort to make college universally available.

After discussion with Erskine Bowles, John Hilley, Gene Sperling, and Sylvia Mathews, we included these proposals in the FY 1999 budget. VA will strongly support these proposals, but none of us expect the proposals by themselves to be sufficient to achieve passage of the VA tobacco legislation. However, it will assist Rep. Stump in his efforts to enact the legislation. VA believes that some veterans organizations may support our legislation and criticism from the others will be sharply reduced.



ONE AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The President's Initiative on Race

The New Executive Office Building

Washington, DC 20503

202/395-7010

January 22, 1998

55 JHA 23 5-8135

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : Judith A. Winston *JAW*
Executive Director

THRU : Erskine Bowles
Sylvia Mathews *mat*

SUBJECT : Letter from Akron Townhall Participant - Jonathan Paul Morgan

I am attaching a letter sent to you by Jonathan Paul Morgan, a recent graduate of the University of Akron. Jonathan participated in the December 3 Akron Townhall Meeting. He was the student who was courageous enough to admit his fear upon encountering black men on the street. I thought you would enjoy knowing that he has pledged to work towards your goal of "One America in the 21st Century."

Enclosure

1-23-98

To Burkhardt for reply.

B.

FROM THE DESK OF JONATHAN PAUL MORGAN

January 6, 1998

Presidents Initiative on Race
New Executive Office Bldg
Room 3236
Washington, DC 20503

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing this letter to thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the panel at the University of Akron Town Hall Meeting. It has been an experience that I will never forget. I have just graduated from the University with a Bachelor Degree in Political Science. My plans are to enter Law School in the Fall of 1998. Between now and then I am planning on working towards your goal of "One America in the 21st Century." I have been in contact with Congressman Thomas Sawyer and plan on working with him and his staff on this project in the upcoming weeks. Once again I would like to thank you and let you know what an impact it has had on my life. God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Paul Morgan
University of Akron Student

Fraydun Manocherian
3 New York Plaza
New York, NY 10004

Mc

(212) 837-4800

Fax: (212) 837-4938

98 JAN 26 0451Z

January 26, 1998

1-26-98

To Burkhardt for reply?
Yes — No —

President William Jefferson Clinton
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Coordinate with NSC?
Yes — No —

Dear Mr. President,

S.

In line with all of the present circumstances, it is my belief that the Pontiff's suggestions should be adhered to.

Please consider to invite Fidel Castro for a one-to-one meeting to establish more freedom in Cuba and the lifting of sanctions.

Respectfully,

Fraydun Manocherian
 Fraydun Manocherian

Enclosure: OP-ED Opinion to New York Times
 submitted January 26, 1998

Fraydun Manocherian
3 New York Plaza
New York, NY 10004

(212) 837-4800
Fax: (212) 837-4938

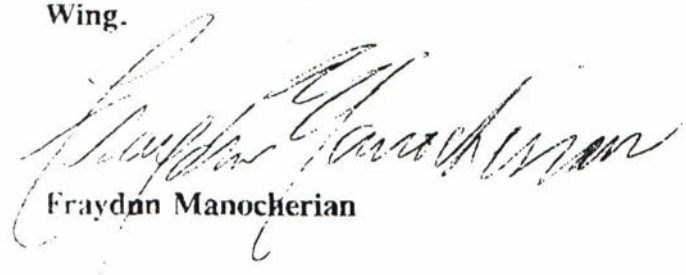
January 26, 1998

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OP-ED
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

FAX NO.: 212-556-3690

THE WITCH OF THE WEST WING

Before Linda Tripp began taping her friend, Monica Lewinsky, she had already contacted Lucianne Goldberg, a literary publishing agent. Lucianne Goldberg, also seeing green encouraged Linda Tripp to tape her friend. For hours, while acting sincerely interested, Linda Tripp surreptitiously taped her friend, knowing full well that she was selling this friendship. As Lucianne Goldberg's attorney said, "it was a matter of survival," otherwise known as MONEY. Where was her loyalty to a friend or an employer or the office of The President of the United States? To me, Linda Tripp's action is most despicable making her deserving of having been known by some at the White House as The Witch of the West Wing.


Fraydun Manocherian