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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
December 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: GEORGE SAUNDERS

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell 

SUBJECT: Suggested Security Devices

A young artist I know, Alexander Presnikov, today brought in the attached drawing of three security devices: a speaker's box, a car-top device, and a "walk along." I told him I would pass his suggestions on to the Secret Service.

Last year, Mr. Presnikov, who was referred to us by a Russian Orthodox priest, presented to the White House a life-size oil painting he had made of the President. More recently, he has painted a portrait of GSA Administrator Gerald Carmen.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: BARBARA McQUOWN

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell



SUBJECT: Peter Keisler

I want to strongly recommend Peter Keisler for a "youth slot" on the National Advisory Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Peter worked as a volunteer in my office in the summer of 1981. He is a Yale Law School student.

This summer, he worked on a criminal justice project funded by the National Institute of Justice.

Peter is 23 years old, and will turn 24 in the fall of 1984. Thus, he would be eligible for the "youth slot."

Peter is currently being processed for an appointment on a Commission on Women's Educational Programs, but the Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention suits him much better. If he had the choice, he would choose the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Peter has my strongest recommendation.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment - Resume,
Peter Douglas Keiser

Home Address

350 Westwood Road
Woodmere, New York 11598
Tel: (516) 374-9288

Local Address

4619 Yale Station
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
Tel: (203) 432-2619

Education

Yale Law School, candidate for J.D. 1985, Associate Member,
Yale Law Journal

Yale College, B.A. in Political Science, Magna cum Laude, Awarded
Distinction in the Major, 1981

Activities

Law School: Federalist Society, National Board of Directors
(a conservative law students group)
Legal Research for ongoing litigation: Yale
University v. The American Literary Society, Inc.
(on behalf of The Yale Literary Magazine)
Yale Moot Court of Appeals (first year)

College: Founder, Yale Students for Reagan (1980)
Speaker, Yale Political Union (moderated a nationally
televised debate on SALT II between George McGovern
and William F. Buckley, Jr.)
Chairman, New Haven Young Republicans
Columnist, Yale Daily News
Fundraising, The Yale Literary Magazine

Employment/Political

Summer, 1983: Criminal Justice project - The Police Corps -
funded by the National Institute of Justice,
supervised by CRISP (a New York foundation chaired
by Judge Harold Tyler)

1981-1982: Executive Vice-President, The Leadership Institute

Summer, 1981: White House Office of Public Liaison

1980: Chairman, National Youth Issues Advisory Committee
to the Reagan-Bush campaign

References

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the Pres.
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Judge Robert Bork
U.S. Court of Appeals
D.C. Circuit
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Adam Walinsky
Kronish, Lieb,
Shainswit, Weiner
& Hellman
New York, NY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

SUBJECT: Billie Jean Bell

Attached are the completed personnel forms for Billie Jean Bell, whom I desire to hire for my office to replace Joyce Thomann.

Jean is presently working at HUD and has just had a background security investigation completed which should facilitate her White House clearances.

I suggest we try to get her an increase from her present salary of \$29,374.

If you concur with my selection, I would appreciate your signing the attached Forms WHP-1 and WHP-2 and forwarding the package onward with the requested salary filled in on the WHP-1 (the white form).

MCB:jet

Attachments a/s

cc: Susie Lacy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: AMBASSADOR OTTO REICH
THROUGH: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*
FROM: EDWARD A. LYNCH *EAL*
SUBJECT: PAPERS ON CUBA AFTER 25 YEARS

Please find attached a series of three papers on Cuba which I drafted last week. They deal with the following topics: Castro's economic record; the democratic promises he made before coming to power vs. the reality; and a brief summary of Castro's foreign policy. Most of the information is taken from State Department publications.

Attachments: as stated

CASTRO'S CUBA: THE ECONOMIC RECORD

In the 25 years that Fidel Castro has ruled Cuba, he has consistently portrayed his revolution as a model for Third World states that wish to escape the burdens of underdevelopment. Castro presents Cuba as a success story, implying that the country was woefully underdeveloped in 1959 but now boasts impressive statistics in different areas of economic development.

Such a portrayal ignores many important facts and is deliberately misleading. Cuba before January 1958 was well ahead of most other, if not all other Caribbean states in many significant economic areas.

In 1958 Cuba enjoyed the highest Gross National Product (GNP) and per capita income in the Caribbean Basin after the U.S. It had significantly larger numbers of cars and telephones than its Caribbean and Central American neighbors. Moreover, the numbers of such items were steadily rising in the years before the Castro takeover.

By 1975, however, several Latin American countries had passed Cuba in some of these economic indicators, demonstrating that while some progress had been made in Cuba, it did not approach the progress made during the same years in non-Communist countries.

Eight other Caribbean Basin states, all of whom were well behind Cuba in such things as numbers of cars, telephones, televisions in 1958, made great strides in all these areas by 1977. In Cuba, on the other hand, there was nothing approaching the improvement in the other eight states. If anything, Cuba has shown itself to be a model of arrested development.

Nevertheless, impressive sounding claims are made by Castro and on behalf of Castro. One of these is the supposed improvement in the infant mortality rate in the years since 1959. Again, Castro began from a high level. Cuba's infant mortality rate in 1959 was 32 per thousand. This was better than most countries in the world, including Germany, Italy and Spain. In 1970, the rate had risen to 38%, although Castro claims to have reduced it to 19% by 1980.

Castro also takes credit for improving literacy and medical care. In the area of literacy, the rate in 1959 was 78% and rising. Castro's "success" has been simply in doing away with remaining pockets of illiteracy. Improvement in medical care, measured in numbers of people per physician, has also lagged well behind the improvement made in other developing countries.

In the meantime, the Cuban economy has grown completely dependent on sugar and on a huge Soviet subsidy. This is the future Castro has to offer his Third World imitators.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISES VS. TOTALITARIAN REALITY

The Revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959 was a broad based, democratic revolution. Based on the statements of Castro before coming to power, the people of Cuba had every right to expect their revolution to result in democracy. Instead, Castro has given them a totalitarian state which refuses to recognize even the most basic human rights.

The programmatic manifesto of Castro's 26th of July movement, issued from the Sierra Maestre in July, 1957, promised "general elections" that would provide an "absolute guarantee" of the political and civil rights provided by Constitution of 1940. One year later, Castro reiterated his determination to "guide the nation...to full constitutional and democratic procedures."

The reality of Castro's revolution has been much harsher. In the months following the entry into Havana there were public executions and the arrest of thousands of political prisoners. Some of these prisoners are still being held, making them among the longest held political prisoners in the world. They are being held under barbaric conditions, which include the use of torture.

In the 25 years he has had, Castro has moved to eliminate all forms of political dissent. All media outlets in Cuba are controlled by the government. Criticism of the regime is prohibited. A nation-wide network of informers discourages even private expressions of disagreement. The mere suspicion of opposition can bring arrest.

Free trade unions are also prohibited. Five trade unionists were recently sentenced to death, later commuted to 30 year prison sentences due to international pressure, for merely discussing the need for an independent union with some of their co-workers.

Cubans also lack the freedom to emigrate. Permanent emigration is allowed only in special cases, and requesting such permission brings such sanctions as the loss of job, the loss of ration card, and the risk of reprisals by hostile mobs.

Even the most basic guarantor of political rights, an independent judiciary, does not exist in Cuba. According to a recent report by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, the administration of justice is subordinated to political power.

The Commission goes on to say that this restriction, plus the absence of constitutional protections, the prohibition of different political concepts, and the severe restrictions on the operation of divergent political organizations "necessarily lead to consideration of the structure of the Cuban state as totalitarian."

CASTRO'S FOREIGN POLICY: TERRORISM & INTERVENTION

When Fidel Castro came to power 25 years ago, it was with the determination that Cuba would someday act as a great power. With the copious support of the Soviet Union, he has to a large extent accomplished this goal. Its accomplishment, however, has meant violence and death for tens of thousands around the world.

There are currently 70,000 Cuban military and civilian advisors stationed abroad. The largest overseas contingents are stationed in Angola (over 20,000 military advisors) and Ethiopia (over 11,000 military advisors), with smaller groups spread out over three continents.

Intervention in the internal affairs of other nations has been a consistent Cuban policy since 1959. In the first ten years of Castro's reign, his government tried to replicate the Cuban revolutionary experience in other parts of Latin America. None of these attempts were successful. In the mid-1970's, Castro turned his attention to Africa, intervening in civil wars in Angola in 1975 and Ethiopia in 1977. Both interventions came after attempts by the U.S. to improve relations.

Beginning in 1978, Cuba once again turned to Latin America, and specifically to Central America, this time with a higher level of sophistication and more Soviet support.

In both the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution and the current insurgency in El Salvador, Castro has united the various guerrilla factions, provided training in Cuba, and supplied, or arranged for the supply of arms to attack the existing government.

Castro's targets have also included the democratic governments of Honduras and Colombia. Late last year the Honduran army destroyed a large Cuban-trained rebel column. Links between Cuba and the terrorist M-19 organization are close and long-standing.

What is missing from such a chronology is the human cost of a foreign policy that encourages violent revolution. An opposition source puts the death toll in Angola's civil war at over 10,000. The war in Ethiopia cost over 15,000 lives. The Nicaraguan civil war resulted in 40,000 casualties. Equatorial Guinea's pro-Cuban government reportedly killed 50,000 people from 1964-1969. Added to this toll are the countless others killed by Cuban-trained terrorists.

Castro's record of flagrant disregard for non-intervention, coupled with the horrendous toll of his overseas adventures have made him a hemispheric pariah. Few countries in this hemisphere are willing to conduct even near-normal diplomatic relations with him, belying his frequent claims of popularity.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: MARGARET SLIPEK,
WHITE HOUSE GIFT UNIT

FROM: Joyce Thomann 

SUBJECT: Gifts to the President

Pursuant to your request today, following is a listing of those individuals who should receive thank-you notes for items presented to the President. All were presented on Thursday, December 22, 1983, including the notebook from the American Legion:

Gideon Bible:

Mr. Guy Sanders, Jr.,
President
GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL
Post Office Box 329
Bamberg, South Carolina 29003

Laymen's National Bible:

Mr. James E. Lee,
National Chairman for National Bible Week, 1984
Chief Executive Officer
GULF OIL CORPORATION
Gulf Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

"The Bible Story" (Volumes 1 through 10):

Elder Charles Bradford
Vice-President for North America
General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
6840 Eastern Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012

The Living Bible:

Dr. Kenneth Taylor
President
LIVING BIBLE INTERNATIONAL
Tyndale House Publishers
336 Gunderson Drive
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Thomas Nelson Publishers Bible:
Dr. Charles Moore
Vice President for Bible Division
Thomas Nelson Publishers
Post Office Box 141000
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

American Legion Notebook:
Mr. Keith A. Kreul,
National Commander
THE AMERICAN LEGION
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006