
Collection Summary


Title: Cuban-Haitian Task Force

Dates: 7/15/80-6/1/81

Quantity: 27 linear feet, 7 linear inches, 63 containers

Identification:
Accession Number: 80-1
National Archives Identifier: 547

Scope and Content:
This collection consists of correspondence, memos, briefing books, press clippings, reports, telephone logs, and report summaries. The material relates to the Task Force that was created to manage and coordinate the processing and resettlement of Cuban-Haitians entrants in the United States. Topics covered in this collection include immigration and refugees.


The Cuban-Haitian Task Force was formally established on July 15, 1980, at the direction of the White House and disbanded on June 1, 1981. On April 20, 1980, Fidel Castro suddenly announced that the port of Mariel, Cuba would be open for all Cubans wishing to leave the country. This came after one month of orderly emigrations from Cuba to Costa Rica. The opening of Mariel shortly resulted in a full-fledged boatlift by Cuban-Americans bringing individuals and groups of immigrants to the Florida. By May 4th, more than 1,000 boats had undertaken the voyage and some 13,000 Cuban immigrants were already in the U.S. Thousands of Cubans continued to arrive each day, placing a major burden on Florida and other states and on the Federal agencies involved in the processing, care and resettlement of the new arrivals. Coupled with the influx of Cubans, several thousand Haitians also arrived in the U.S. during that time.

This burden caused the Administration to declare the situation an emergency on May 6, 1980, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began to coordinate the federal effort to respond to the crisis. By July, more than 120,000 Cubans and Haitians
had arrived in the U.S. and it was apparent that a comprehensive assistance program was needed to meet their immediate and long-term needs. On July 15, 1980, the Administration established the Cuban-Haitian Task Force to manage the processing and resettlement of Cuban and Haitian arrivals. The Director of the Task Force reported directly to the U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs (Ambassador Victor H. Palmieri) and the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs (Eugene Eidenberg). The Task Force was transferred to the Office of the Under Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources on November 15, 1980.

The Task Force provided overall policy management direction to the effort to receive, process, and resettle entrants. It worked closely with Federal agencies to coordinate federal activities related to serving the entrants. The general management structure of the Task Force delegated many day-to-day operational responsibilities to its field operation centers. Oversight by headquarters assured consistency of policy and overall supervision. The Washington office was staffed to provide quick reaction teams to any camp in case of emergencies. There was also a major regional office in Miami, as well four resettlement centers and other processing and holding centers in southern Florida. The Task Force also devoted substantial financial and personnel resources to working with the national volunteer agencies to effect rapid resettlement of the entrants throughout the U.S. and working with organizations to minimize the negative impact of the Cuban-Haitian boatlift.

Restrictions:
Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor’s deed of gift.

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Related Material:
Related materials in this repository: Domestic Policy Staff; Records of the Office of the Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs

Index Terms:
Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Ambassador Victor H. Palmieri, Eugene Eidenberg

Organizations: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Subjects: Immigration, Refugees
Places: Cuba, Haiti, Miami, Florida; Fort Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas

Types of Material: Memoranda, correspondence briefing books, clippings, reports, phone logs, summaries

Administrative Information:
Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened in 1987. Subsequent series in the collection were opened on March 3, 1998. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Department of Health and Human Services - Cuban-Haitian Task Force are divided into eight series:

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Detailed Description of the Collection

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Subject Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 1-10. This series was opened on April 13, 1987. This series consists of memoranda, correspondence, reports, phone logs, executive summaries and transcripts of Congressional hearings. The series includes material on the Fort Chaffee refugee program and the Miami operations. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Director's Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 10-19. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memoranda, correspondence, minutes of task force meetings, briefing books, informational materials, and executive summaries. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.
**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Public Affairs Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 19-28. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memoranda, reports, press releases, newspaper clippings, staff profiles, executive summaries, and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Data Summaries Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 29-30. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memoranda, reports, and executive summaries. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Fort Indiantown Gap Camp Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 31-41. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memoranda, reports, correspondence, wire copies, news clippings, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Clippings Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 42-45. This series was opened in on March 3, 1998. This series consists of related press clippings from various newspapers. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Correspondence Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 46-60. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of external and internal chronological letters, cleared letters, Congressional mail in name order, copies of outgoing mail, public inquiries, sponsorship information, and State Department correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Administrative Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 60-63. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of reports for and about the Cuban-Haitian Task Force, various instructions for administrative purposes, and weekly activity reports of voluntary agencies. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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Collection Summary


Title: Cuban-Haitian Task Force

Dates: 7/15/80-6/1/81

Quantity: 27 linear feet, 7 linear inches, 63 containers

Identification:
   Accession Number: 80-1.b
   National Archives Identifier: 547

Scope and Content:
This collection consists of correspondence, memos, briefing books, press clippings, reports, telephone logs, and report summaries. The material relates to the Task Force that was created to manage and coordinate the processing and resettlement of Cuban-Haitians entrants in the United States. Topics covered in this collection include immigration and refugees.

   The Cuban-Haitian Task Force was formally established on July 15, 1980, at the direction of the White House and disbanded on June 1, 1981. On April 20, 1980, Fidel Castro suddenly announced that the port of Mariel, Cuba would be open for all Cubans wishing to leave the country. This came after one month of orderly emigrations from Cuba to Costa Rica. The opening of Mariel shortly resulted in a full-fledged boatlift by Cuban-Americans bringing individuals and groups of immigrants to the Florida. By May 4th, more than 1,000 boats had undertaken the voyage and some 13,000 Cuban immigrants were already in the U.S. Thousands of Cubans continued to arrive each day, placing a major burden on Florida and other states and on the Federal agencies involved in the processing, care and resettlement of the new arrivals. Coupled with the influx of Cubans, several thousand Haitians also arrived in the U.S. during that time.

   This burden caused the Administration to declare the situation an emergency on May 6, 1980, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began to coordinate the federal effort to respond to the crisis. By July, more than 120,000 Cubans and Haitians had arrived in the U.S. and it was apparent that a comprehensive assistance program was needed to meet their immediate and long-term needs. On July 15, 1980, the Administration established the Cuban-Haitian Task Force to manage the processing and resettlement of Cuban and Haitian arrivals. The Director of the Task Force reported
directly to the U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs (Ambassador Victor H. Palmieri) and the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs (Eugene Eidenberg). The Task Force was transferred to the Office of the Under Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources on November 15, 1980.

The Task Force provided overall policy management direction to the effort to receive, process, and resettle entrants. It worked closely with Federal agencies to coordinate federal activities related to serving the entrants. The general management structure of the Task Force delegated many day-to-day operational responsibilities to its field operation centers. Oversight by headquarters assured consistency of policy and overall supervision. The Washington office was staffed to provide quick reaction teams to any camp in case of emergencies. There was also a major regional office in Miami, as well four resettlement centers and other processing and holding centers in southern Florida. The Task Force also devoted substantial financial and personnel resources to working with the national volunteer agencies to effect rapid resettlement of the entrants throughout the U.S. and working with organizations to minimize the negative impact of the Cuban-Haitian boatlift.

Restrictions:
Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor’s deed of gift.

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Related Material:
Related materials in this repository: Domestic Policy Staff; Records of the Office of the Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs

Index Terms:
Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Ambassador Victor H. Palmieri, Eugene Eidenberg

Organizations: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Subjects: Immigration, Refugees

Places: Cuba, Haiti, Miami, Florida; Fort Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Camp Santiago, Puerto Rico; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas
Types of Material: Memos, briefing books, clippings, reports, phone logs, correspondence, summaries

Administrative Information:
Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened in 1987. Subsequent series in the collection were opened on March 3, 1998. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Department of Health and Human Services - Cuban-Haitian Task Force are divided into eight series:

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Detailed Description of the Collection

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Subject Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 1-10. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memos, correspondence, reports, phone logs, executive summaries and transcripts of Congressional hearings. The series includes material on the Fort Chaffee refugee program, and the Miami operations. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Director's Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 10-19. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memos, correspondence, minutes of task force meetings, briefing books, informational materials and executive summaries. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.
Cuban-Haitian Task Force Public Affairs Files
Scope and Content: Containers 19-28. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memos, reports, press releases, newspaper clippings, staff profiles, executive summaries and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Cuban-Haitian Task Force Data Summaries Files
Scope and Content: Containers 29-30. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memos, reports and executive summaries. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Cuban-Haitian Task Force Fort Indiantown Gap Camp Files
Scope and Content: Containers 31-41. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of memos, reports, correspondence, wire copies, news clippings and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Cuban-Haitian Task Force Clippings Files
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Cuban-Haitian Task Force Correspondence Files
Scope and Content: Containers 46-60. This series was opened on March 3, 1998. This series consists of external and internal chronological letters, cleared letters, Congressional mail in name order, copies of outgoing mail, public inquiries, sponsorship information, and State Department correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Cuban-Haitian Task Force Administrative Files
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Sponsorship [File No. 1]
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Sponsorship Breakdowns
Sponsorship Campaign Itineraries
Sponsorship Photographs
State Breakdown
Telecopier Log - Outgoing [Empty]
Telefax - Sent [Empty]
Television
Tent City
Tent City - Miami
Third Country Position
Time Sheets - Arthur P. Brill
Total Federal Expenditures by Department, 4/20/80-9/24/80
Unaccompanied Minors [File No. 1]
Unaccompanied Minors [File No. 2]
Unaccompanied Minors [File No. 3]
Unaccompanied Minors, Males [1]
Unaccompanied Minors, Males [2]
United States Government Policy
Video - Phone Stations
Visuals
VOLAGS
Weekly Plan of Action, 9/22/80-9/26/80
White Paper

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Cuban-Haitian Task Force Data Summaries Files

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Executive Summaries, 10/27/80-11/25/80
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Executive Summaries, 1/7/81-2/18/81
Executive Summaries, 2/18/81-3/13/81
Executive Summaries, 3/16/81-4/22/81
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Executive Summaries, 5/12/81-5/27/81

Container 30
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Executive Summaries, 6/21/80-7/14/80
FEMA Executive Summaries, 7/15/80-8/13/80
FEMA Executive Summaries, 8/14/80-9/30/80
FEMA Executive Summaries, 10/1/80-10/29/80
Memos, 7/17/80-4/10/81
Monthly Entrant Reports, 11/6/80-4/16/80
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Report of the Cuban/Haitian Task Force, 11/1/80 Paper

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AP and UPI Wire Copies, 6/17/80-6/30/80
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AP and UPI Wire Copies, 9/25/80-9/30/80
AP and UPI Wire Copies, 10/1/80-10/15/80
AP and UPI Wire Copies, 10/27/80
After Action Report, 6/14/80
After Action Report, 5/11/80-10/15/80 Volume 1
After Action Report - Logistics and Special Activities Coordinator
After Action Report - Operation New Arrivals, 5/16/75-1/6/76 [1]

Container 33
After Action Report - Operation New Arrivals, 7/24/75-12/15/75
After Action Report - Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, 7/25/80-10/15/80 [1]
After Action Report - Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, 7/25/80-10/15/80 [2]
After Action Report - Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, 7/25/80-10/15/80 [3]
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After Action Reports, 6/10/80-10/31/80 [1]
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Briefing Book - Senate Appropriations Subcommittee [2]
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Budget Tables - Cuban/Haitian Task Force Activities
Cuban/Haitian Task Force - General
Cuban/Haitian Task Force - Legislative Action
Cuban/Haitian Task Force - Legislative Action
Cuban/Haitian Task Force - Staff Meeting Minutes
Civil Affairs Participation in Operation New Arrivals
Consolidation [File No. 1]
Consolidation [File No. 2] [1]

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Consolidation Plans Public Health Services (PHS) and Human and Health Services (HHS)
Cuba as Told by Cuban Refugees
Cuban Refugees
FEMA Mission Statements [1]
FEMA Mission Statements [2]
Fascell - Stone
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Financial Management
Fort Chaffee Consolidation
Fort Chaffee Photographs
Fort Indiantown Gap Photographs
Fort McCoy Photographs
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**Container 36**
General Services Administration (GSA) [1]
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HHS Briefing Memo, 10/11/80
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Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM)
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La Libertad - Fort Indiantown Gap, 6/11/80-10/10/80

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La Vida Nueva - Fort Chaffee, 8/20/80-9/27/80
Legal Issues
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Ligsukia, Sylvester - Reading File (Chron), 7/28/80-3/6/81
Mayors - Certificates
Memoranda - Congressional and Public Affairs Material, 3/8/80-6/2/80
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Mental Health [2]
Mission Descriptions
New Arrivals after Action Report - Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 4/28/75-12/20/75 Volume I
New Arrivals after Action Report - Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 4/28/76-12/20/75 Volume II
New Arrivals after Action Report - Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 4/28/75-12/20/75 Volume III
New Arrivals after Action Report - Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 4/28/75-12/20/75 Volume IV
New Arrivals after Action Report - Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, 4/28/75-12/20/75 Volume V
News Clippings, 5/31/80-6/11/80
News Clippings, 6/11/80-6/26/80

**Container 39**
News Clippings, 6/27/80-7/19/80
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**News Clippings, 9/20/80-10/17/80**

**Container 40**
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Puerto Rico and Fort Chaffee Maps and Photographs
Red Cross, American - Final Report, 10/17/80 [1]
Red Cross, American - Final Report, 10/17/80 [2]
Red Cross, American - Final Report, 10/17/80 [3]

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Teaching Oral English to Cuban Refugees Report [2]
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Undersecretary Briefing Material
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**Cuban-Haitian Task Force Clippings Files**

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Container 44
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State Department Correspondence - Info only, 7/17/1980 - 8/4/1980

Container 60
State Department Correspondence - Info Only, 8/5/1980 - 8/29/1980
State Department - White House Come Back Copies, 8/80
State Department - White House Come Back Copies, 9/80
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Cuban-Haitian Task Force Administrative Files

A Report to the Cuban-Haitian Task Force, 11/01/1980
After Action Report of Legal Advisor
After Action Report of Resettlement Activities
Congressional Drafting Instructions
Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program - Operating Manual
Defense Department Joint Security Plan
Executive Secretary Miscellaneous Instructions, Summer 1980

Container 61
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(VOLAG) Report - Church World Service (CWS)
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(VOLAG) Report - Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Service (LIRS)
(VOLAG) Report - U.S. Catholic Conference (USCCI)
(VOLAG) Report - World Relief Refugee Services (WRRS)
Weekly Activities Report, 12/5/1980

Container 63
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