

[2/29/80-Not Submitted-DF]

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ID 801259

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 29 FEB 80

FOR ACTION: RICK HERTZBERG

FRAN VOORDE

PHIL WISE

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE FIRST LADY

SUBJECT: BRZEZINSKI MEMO RE CARIBBEAN PEOPLE -- AN UPDATE

+++++

+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +

+ BY: 1200 PM MONDAY 03 MAR 80 +

+++++

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

*I favor a reception^{at WH} with a Diner at
State Dept hosted by Vance*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1980

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI *ZB*
SUBJECT: Caribbean People -- An Update

Governor Graham has written you a letter (Tab C) to bring you up to date on your Caribbean people initiative. Incidentally, he is leaning toward calling the new organization "Caribbean/Central America Action." He has organized teams to go to Costa Rica and Barbados in mid-March to begin an exchange of views with citizens of these countries about ways to improve the quality of the relationship among our people. In addition, he has asked leaders of several private voluntary organizations to visit other nations in the area for the same purpose.

The principal reason for the Governor's letter is to elicit your support for a major public event in Washington in late March to launch the new group. He is planning a full day of briefings on the area and on the kinds of non-governmental activities which the group would undertake. He asks that you host a dinner for the Trustees and the people who participate in the day's events, and that you use the dinner as an opportunity to make a major address on the Caribbean and Central America and within that context, the mission you see for this new private sector effort. Graham also asks that you meet privately for a few minutes before the dinner with a few key individuals who might contribute in a direct way to the effort's success. (A Schedule Proposal is at Tab B.)

We followed up your comments on my last update. Bob Pastor has been working closely with the Governor's staff and with the Interim Management Committee which was established to advise the Governor. The Governor has agreed to try to include Johnny Cash in future efforts. You have also received several more responses from heads of state in the region: (1) St. Vincent Prime Minister Cato welcomes the initiative and has promised his support; (2) St. Kitts Premier Moore appreciates "this new experiment aimed at bolstering the relationship between the people of our two countries;" (3) we still have no response from Dominica, which is having some electoral problems; our Ambassador will be there on March 9 and will raise the matter again; (4) Chief Minister Osborne of Montserrat

has promised to write to you personally concerning his approval of the idea; and (5) we have made a second attempt to obtain a response from Grenada, but they have not reacted.

State is working on detailing a person to work with Governor Graham on this project. He has also asked us if we could get up an Interagency Group, perhaps chaired by Jack Watson with Eob Pastor as his Deputy, to serve as a coordinating focus to assist "Caribbean/Central America Action."

RECOMMENDATION

1. That you approve the holding of a reception for "Caribbean/Central America Action" on March 27, 1980 (or March 24 or 25). *

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

2. Alternatively, that you have a reception for the group. (The principal benefit of the dinner would be to give you an opportunity to make an address on the region and on the importance of this new non-governmental effort.)

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

3. That you sign the letter to Governor Graham at Tab A.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

* I have submitted
to Phil a formal
proposal to this effect.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 29, 1980

To Governor Bob Graham

Thank you for your letter of February 21, 1980. I am pleased that your new group is getting underway, and I am sure it will be an extremely effective force for assisting the people of the United States toward a better relationship with their neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean.

As I have said to you several times before, I am eager to help you establish this new effort. I would therefore consider it an honor to host a dinner at the White House for the new trustees of your group and for others who participate in the events launching your new group. Please follow up with my staff to work out the details.

Congratulations on the progress you have been making.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert Graham
Governor of Florida
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
DATE: February 29, 1980
FROM: Zbigniew Brzezinski
VIA: Phil Wise

MEETING: Dinner for Board of Trustees and key participants in the new Caribbean/Central American Action Initiative.

DATE: March 27, 1980 (could be March 24 or 25)

PURPOSE: To signal to participants and to the public the launching of a new non-governmental group to develop the new and improved relationship between the people of the United States and of the Caribbean and Central America.

FORMAT: - Formal White House dinner preceded by a private meeting with key individuals.
- List of participants to be provided (about 100).

CABINET PARTICIPATION: Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Education

SPEECH MATERIAL: Speech to be provided by NSC

PRESS COVERAGE: Meeting to be announced. Full press. Photo opportunity.

STAFF: Dr. Brzezinski, Jack Watson

RECOMMEND: Secretary Vance, Dr. Brzezinski

OPPOSED: None

BACKGROUND: Governor Graham has written to you to ask you to host a major organizing event, as you said you would like to do in March. The event would underscore the importance you attach to this effort.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB GRAHAM

February 21, 1980

Honorable Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The response to your call for a private sector initiative toward the Caribbean and Central America has been truly heartening. I continue to receive numerous offers to help and to take an active part from individuals who attended your January 11 meeting, as well as from others who have learned of it.

Since that January meeting considerable progress has been made toward getting the new effort organized. Robert V. West, Jr., Chairman of the Committee for the Caribbean, and his staff have provided the critical support work to back up our initial efforts. An interim management committee, made up of heads of key private voluntary organizations, has been meeting weekly in Washington at my request to make recommendations on organizational structure, program direction, and potential participants. William D. Rogers is providing the legal work necessary for getting your organization incorporated. I have asked a number of distinguished individuals to serve as initial trustees.

We are working toward a major organizing event in March, which would bring the full board of trustees together for the first time, along with other key supporters and participants, both from this country and the region. The day's program will include a press conference, a working meeting of the board, and an opportunity to hear reports from teams of distinguished Americans who will have visited a Central American and a Caribbean country in mid-March, describing our new initiative to people in the region and inviting their ideas and participation. With careful planning and a coordinated media effort, this March event can signal both to participants and to the public the launching of a very exciting new relationship between the people of this country and of the Caribbean and Central America.

Honorable Jimmy Carter
Page 2

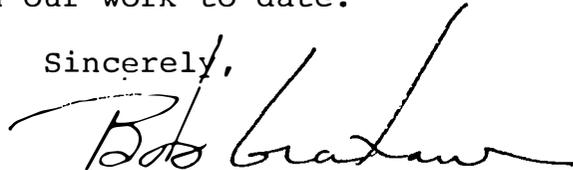
Your own role, however, is critical. If we are to have the level of participation and public attention the seriousness of this enterprise warrants, we need to underscore the importance you attach to it for our national interest and your personal involvement in its creation. I would, therefore, strongly urge you to host an early evening reception at the White House for the new trustees and other participants in the day's events. This would give you an opportunity to make a major address on the mission and priorities you see for this new private-sector effort and would also be an occasion for you to meet privately beforehand with a few key individuals who might contribute in a direct way to the effort's success.

I realize, of course, the many demands on your time and the difficulty of adding major events to the White House calendar with so little advance notice. Given your own strong commitment to this effort, however, and the charge you gave us in January to aim for a March date, I am confident this request will accord with your own wishes and intentions. Thursday, March 27, would be a good date for me, as would a number of other days during that same week. As soon as you are able to let us know what date would be most convenient for you, we will proceed to make arrangements for the rest of the day's events (which, in keeping with the private-sector nature of the organization, would be held at a nongovernmental location).

I am convinced that this whole private-sector mobilization you have inspired will catch fire both here and in the Caribbean and Central America and has the potential for making a major difference in the region's development, democratic prospects, and friendship with the United States. I look forward to working closely with you as our plans progress and, knowing your enthusiasm, will not hesitate to come to you for assistance whenever Federal cooperation in specific matters might help us perform our task more effectively.

Your confidence and help are greatly appreciated. I will look forward to hearing from you about the March plans and any comments you may have on our work to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Governor

BG/bb

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 29, 1980

To Governor Bob Graham

m Thank you for your letter of February 21, 1980. I am pleased that your new group is getting underway, and I am sure it will be an extremely effective force ~~for~~ assisting the people of the United States toward a better relationship with their neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean.

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taking
part

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