

ABC FORUM ON CUBA, INC.
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Friday, January 12, 1996

Mr. R. Richard Newcomb, Director
Office of Foreign Assets Control
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. -- Annex
Washington, DC 20220

By fax to: 202/622-1759

Dear Mr. Newcomb,

Thank you, Mr. Pinter and your colleagues for meeting with Mike Ryan and me this morning so that we could respond to Mr. Pinter's letter of January 4 re License C-18167 and report in detail about our advance trip this week to Cuba for the purpose of finalizing arrangements for the conference on the "United States and Cuba: A New England Perspective" which is to be held in Havana, Cuba between Tuesday, January 16 and Friday, January 19, 1996.

Should our request for the conference license be granted and if it is permissible within the license, I plan to leave my home (ph: 914/337-5096, fax: 914/337-5952) about 5 pm on Saturday, January 13 -- fly to Miami Saturday night -- and then to Havana on Sunday, January 14, to work with Ambassador Sullivan's staff at the U.S. Interest Section; Roberto Dominguez Homerlein, DPTO.EEUU in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (who is coordinating Cuban Government participation); and Eric Splinter at the Hotel Nacional to finalize & reconfirm logistical arrangements for the conference.

On Sunday evening, January 7, when Jim McGovern, Senior Aide to Congressman Moakley, Mike Ryan and I arrived in Havana, Ambassador Sullivan and his staff met with us at the residence to brief us and to discuss how best to make the most productive use of our time in Havana this past week.

Ambassador Sullivan's staff kindly assisted us in arranging to meet with the following individuals:

Dr. Rolando Suarez, Caritas Cuba
Martha Beatriz Roque, Institute for Independent Economists
Julio Suarez, Independent Press Bureau of Cuba
Gustavo Arcos, Cuban Committee for Human Rights
Rene Gomez Manzano, Agramonte Current (lawyers' association)
Vladimiro Roca, Socialist Democratic Current
Dr. Jose Miller, Jewish Community Center
Grand Master Heriberto Saborit, Masonic Lodge
Alejandro Nieto, Evangelical League of Cuba
Leoncio Veguilla, Western Baptist Conference
Eilzardo Sanchez, Cuban Commission for Human Rights and
National Reconciliation

Felix Antonio Bonne, Grupo de Reflexion Corriente Civica
Cubana

We also met with Father Orlando, personal secretary to Cardinal Ortega, and were briefly introduced to the Cardinal.

The meetings we had with Cuban Government officials this past week -- in addition to the multiple meetings with Roberto Dominguez and members of his staff -- were:

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, President of National Assembly
Carlos Martinez Salsamendi, Chamber of Commerce of Cuba

Our final session in Havana was with Ambassador Sullivan and his staff, beginning at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 11, for an extensive review of the past week's activities and an in-depth discussion of all arrangements and plans for the conference beginning on January 16.

We advised the Cuban Government officials in Havana and in Washington that we intended to meet with a wide range of Cubans during the advance trip and during the conference. The Cuban Government has not placed any restrictions on our activities.

Attached is a list of all conference participants, their organizational affiliations and their experience in activities that demonstrate the capability to provide support for the Cuban people.

The conference agenda is:

Tuesday, January 16

- 12:30 pm Check-in at Miami Airport
- 1:30 pm Depart for Havana on Gulfstream flt #263
- 4:00 pm Check-in at Hotel Nacional in Havana
- 5:00 pm Briefing for Conference Participants by U.S. Ambassador Sullivan and staff at the Ambassador's residence
- 6:00 pm Reception at the Ambassador's residence for all leaders on the Cuban nongovernmental organizations
- 7:30 pm Dinner with the Ambassador at the residence

Wednesday, January 17

- 8:00 am Breakfast at Hotel Nacional
- 9:00 am Session with Roberto Robaina Gonzalez
Ministry of Foreign Relations
- 10:30 am Visit La Casa Del HABANO and tour cigar factory
with Abel Exposito Diaz, Gerente (33-8060)
- 12:30 pm Lunch session with Jose Luis Rogriguez Garcia
Ministry of Economy and Planning
- 2:00 pm Session with Francisco Soberon Valdes
President, National Bank of Cuba

- 3:00 pm Session with Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz
Ministry of Foreign Trade
- 5:00 pm Session with Group of 7 of Concilio Cubano
Martha Beatriz Rogue, Gustavo Arcos, Rene Gomez
Manzano, Vladimiro Roca, Elizardo Sanchez, Felix
Antonio Bonne
- 8:00 pm Dinner with Spanish Ambassador at the residence

Thursday, January 18

- 8:00 am Breakfast at Hotel National
- 9:30 am Audience with Cardinal Ortega at his residence
- 11:00 am Session with Ricardo Alarcon
President of National Assembly
- 12:00 pm Lunch with Ministry for Foreign Investment and
Economic Cooperation
- 2:00 pm On-site visit to highlight micro entrepreneur
project with Dr. Rolando Suarez Cohiban, Director
Caritas Cubana
- 4:30 pm Visit with James Arena DeRosa and Oxfam America to
agricultural project
- 6:00 pm Reception at Hotel Nacional for Cuban officials
- 8:00 pm Dinner at Le Tocorroro

Friday, January 19

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Hotel Nacional
- 9:00 am Press Availability in VIP lounge of Havana Airport
- 10:00 am Depart for Miami on Gulfstream charter flight
- 11:00 am Arrive Miami International Airport

We are continuing the effort to ensure full compliance with the Treasury Department license rules and regulations. Our efforts include the fact that the conference registration form, which is signed by the participants, states clearly that this is a USG licensed project under the 515.574 Support for the Cuban People regulations. Each participant receives a copy of the license with a cautionary communication from us along with a copy of OFAC's "What You Need To Know About The U.S. Embargo" dated 10-23-95. During the flight from Miami to Havana on Jan. 16, Congressman Moakley and his staff along with Mike Ryan will review with all delegates the license rules. We have also asked Ambassador Sullivan's staff to review these issues during their briefing. As we plan to conduct additional such conferences in the future, we will continue our efforts to conduct this entire conference well within the spirit and the letter of the license and guidelines as you have kindly explained them to us.

During our meetings with Cuban NGO leaders and with Ambassador Sullivan this past week we made a studied effort to learn about and discuss practical ways and means of providing assistance to them through activities in the US that can be licensed. For example, we have offered to help organize a U.S.-based "501 (c) (3)" Concillio Cubana entity that can enlist resources and

channel them to Cuba after obtaining the required Treasury Department licenses. Another good example is the possibility of assisting the Caritas organization by providing professional trainers who are capable of helping Caritas teach new small business owners how best to develop their organizations successfully and profitably.

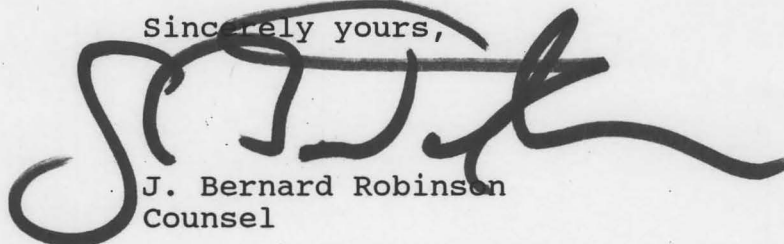
Our ongoing discussions with the conference registrants underscore the reality that as these U.S. public and private sector leaders learn first hand during the conference of the needs and "wish lists" of a multitude of Cuban-based NGOs, their willingness to provide Support for Cuban People will produce the resources your guidelines anticipate and that these individuals and organizations need to fulfill their mission.

We genuinely appreciate all the efforts you and your colleagues have made to direct and guide us during this process.

If additional information would be helpful to your consideration, please call.

As agreed, should the conference license be issued we will report in person immediately after our return and also submit a written report on the Conference and our plans for follow up.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bernard Robinson', is written over the typed name and title.

J. Bernard Robinson
Counsel

cc: Mr. Michael J. Ryan, President of ABC Forum On Cuba, Inc.