

Statement by White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers, Washington, DC,

October 14, 1994.

Today, the President announced a series of immediate humanitarian steps relating to Cubans in safehavens in Guantanamo and Panama.

First, the Attorney General will parole into the United States chronically ill persons and their caregivers who cannot be adequately cared for in the camps.

Second, she will parole into the United States unaccompanied young children now in the safehavens.

Third, she will parole into the United States migrants over 70. In each case, we will ensure that those paroled in have appropriate sponsors.

Fourth, the Administration will conduct a review of the status of all children in the camps.

Fifth, we have launched a major effort to persuade other countries to accept some of the Cuban migrants.

Sixth, although much remains to be done, significant improvements have been made in the camps, including providing better food, inaugurating mail and telephone service, and improving sanitary conditions. [Copies of a White House fact sheet showing the timetable for improvements can be obtained from the White House, Office of the Press Secretary, (202) 4562100.]

The Administration shares the deep concern of the Cuban-American community for the well-being of all Cubans in safehavens. The root cause of these problems is in Cuba. The Administration is dedicated to pursuing policies that will lead to a rapid and peaceful movement to democracy in Cuba.