

National Summit on Cuba – Summary Report

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The purpose of this comprehensive day-long meeting in Washington was to demonstrate Cuban-American and Republican support for current legislation before Congress to ease some of the restrictions of the Cuban Embargo.

In a nutshell:

- Freedom of Travel is a fundamental right of US citizens and must be restored.
- There is NO THREAT to the U.S. from Cuba in any way
- Opening relations with Cuba will be of major benefit to U.S. Business' including farmers
- The majority of Americans support lifting this embargo
- The majority of Miami Cuban-Americans support lifting this embargo
- Lifting the embargo would substantially benefit U.S. Security interests

The summit was sponsored by four organizations:

- The American Farm Bureau Federation – America's largest grass roots farm organization with over 5 million members in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- USA Engage – a broad based coalition composed primarily of America's most recognizable corporations – over 650 of them.
- The World Policy Institute – a New York research and education policy center, and
- Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba (AHTC) – a 501c-4 advocacy organization founded in 1998 in response to a series of medical reports documenting the negative impact of the embargo on the Cuban people.

Credit should go to Lissa Weinmann, summit coordinator and Executive Director of AHTC, and her staff for putting together an excellent program. Summit Co-chairs were Sam Gibbons – former 34 year US Representative from Tampa, and Bob Stallman – President of the American Farm Bureau Federation from Texas.

For those of you who read this that don't know me, I have been actively involved in humanitarian efforts in Cuba in taking over donated medical equipment and supplies for the last two or three years. I've been to Cuba many times now and have developed good friendships there. I am very familiar with the Cuban system and have talked to average Cubans and Cuban officials both at length. This is what has motivated me to turn my eyes toward Washington to discern the truth there. I have seen the effect our embargo policy has had on Cuba. It's not affecting the political situation there one bit, and certainly is not pressuring Castro to leave power. What it IS doing is severely hurting all of my friends there – from the inconvenience of not having basic toiletries, to a catastrophic lack of medicines and medical supplies. My purpose in going to Washington to attend this meeting and to meet with congressional representatives was to let my voice be heard

about changing this situation, and to learn whether or not there were real reasons that the embargo should be continued of which I might not be aware. I want to make it clear that my political involvement regarding U.S. Cuba policy is mine personally as an American Citizen, and is not that of either the nonprofit or humanitarian organizations I work for and with. We will keep those nonprofit organizations entirely apolitical. I have nothing personal to gain either way with the Cuban embargo. But these are my friends over there and someone has to stand up and speak for them here in the U.S.. I have direct personal knowledge of the Cubans, the Cuban government and dealing with the U.S. bureaucracies that administer our U.S. Cuba policy. I want to share the truths I've learned with as many of my U.S. friends and colleagues that I can, in order to effect the changes that will help my friends in Cuba. You'll find these opinions in this report. I'd invite you to join me in this cause. It is just, and the right thing to do.

The Summit meeting went solid all day long with no breaks, and presentations continued right on through lunch. I got the impression throughout the day that this meeting was of historic importance. This is the first time of which I am aware that all of the facts regarding Cuba, it's relationship to the U.S., and the opinions of those government and private agencies that have studied this in detail, have been brought to light in such an organized and comprehensive manner by knowledgeable and credible people. We heard reports and presentations from key Senators and Congressmen, American business representatives, private research and consulting groups such as the Cato Institute, Brattle group and World Policy Institute who all indicated that the time for change in US policy to Cuba was now. We heard from retired General Charles Wilhelm who was the former Chief Commander of the US Southern Command – military leader for all of the Caribbean basin including Cuba, Central and South America, who adamantly maintains that Cuba presents no threat to us whatsoever, and that in fact the lack of a good working relationship with the Cubans significantly detracts from US Security capability.

You might be able to get a copy of the book we received that contained these reports from “Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba”. Call Lissa Weinmann at 718-416-1653 to see if you could buy a copy of this book on the “National Summit On Cuba”. It contains the resumes of most of the speakers, and lists the hosts and sponsors of the program, and attendees from throughout the country. The book is divided into the following sections:

- THE FLAG FOLLOWS TRADE – Presentations by the business community
- THE DEMOCRATIC & ECONOMIC IMPETUS FOR FREE TRAVEL
- OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
- A CHANGED POLITICAL EQUATION: CUBAN AMERICANS SEEK NEW APPROACH
- THE EMBARGO'S IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HEALTH AND CULTURE HERE AND IN CUBA
- THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE EMBARGO
- A CHANGED POLITICAL EQUATION: LOCAL LEADERS SPEAK OUT
- POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CHANGE
- SELECT MEDIA CLIPPINGS

A report from the Center for International Policy¹ concludes that Cuba should absolutely be removed from State Departments “State Sponsor of Terrorism” list. It correctly, I believe, points out that this gross inconsistency (Cuba policy) in US Foreign Policy creates a severe credibility question for the Administration with other Foreign Policy issues that are far more important for REAL U.S. National interest and security issues. We don’t even have foreign support for Iraq. Changing U.S. policy toward Cuba in line with the recommendations of most of the advisory groups, and in line with predominant world view, would significantly enhance the ability of the U.S. to diplomatically work with other countries around the world on other important issues – especially Latin American countries in our own Caribbean backyard. The American division of Human Rights Watch reports that they can’t get other democratic Latin American countries to press Cuba for human rights improvements because they don’t want to be seen as joining Washington’s bullying tactics². We have to be believable and honorable. The alternative is to be an incredible arrogant bully that no other nation will trust or cooperate with.

The Washington Office on Latin America really summarizes the Cuba issue best³ when they say:

“In our view, U.S. policy toward Cuba has not been formulated on the basis of sound judgments about strategies that will best promote human rights and social justice on the island, but on the basis of outdated Cold War ideology and special interest group politics. We believe that the embargo hurts domestic U.S. economic and political interests without bringing us any foreign policy benefits. We believe the engagement with Cuba is a more sensible, effective, and humane strategy for promoting human rights and social justice there. Engagement would also be economically beneficial to the United States.”

This 75 page report is excellent and is available from the Washington Office on Latin America, telephone 202-797-2171, www.wola.org for minimal cost.

We heard the Bush Administrations view through Dan Fisk, the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of the Western Hemisphere Affairs in the U.S. State Department. I was anxious to hear the State Departments position on Cuba and listened to Mr. Fisk initially with an open mind but soon came to the conclusion that I (and the American people) was being intentionally misled. His position was unwavering and dogmatic in that Cuba was a “terrorist” country and that the Administration would not allow a normalization of relationships until such time as Castro was removed from power and democracy was instituted on the Island Nation. It became extremely transparent to me during Mr. Fisk’s presentation that much of what he was saying was untrue and his representation of the basis for U.S. Cuban policy was at best misleading (and I’m trying to be very polite about this). He made forceful statements that I personally know are untrue (forced abortions

¹ “Cuba on the Terrorist List: In defense of the nation or political calculation?” by Anya K. Landau and Wayne S. Smith. Center for International Policy. September 12, 2002

² “Washington’s Embargo Feeds Castro’s Tyranny” by Jose Miguel Vivanco and Anne Manuel, American division of Human Rights Watch. The Wall Street Journal. Wednesday, January 21, 1998.

³ “A Time For Change, Re-thinking US-Cuba Policy” Lilah Rosenblum. Washington Office on Latin America. May 2002

and that health care for Cubans was better before the revolution than it is now). It became clear to me how the opinions of so many Americans could so easily be swayed by such misleading remarks if they had never been to Cuba and did not really know the Cuban people. He dispensed with questions regarding humanitarian aid or even free travel by American Citizens by calmly asserting that provisions in the embargo provide for this by licensing through the OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control in the Treasury Department) and made it appear that it was easy for Americans to do this. I know from direct and personal knowledge that this is NOT the case. The OFAC office for the last couple years has made deliberate attempts to impede, delay and totally block even legitimate applications currently provided for by law. Mr. Fisk danced around the questions he was given regarding the discrepancies in U.S. policy with other communist nations such as China, Vietnam and North Korea. He would start with a kernel of truth, and then exaggerate it to absurdity in a thinly veiled political spin. His contrived responses to these and other reasonable questions made it clear to me that the Administration's position on Cuba has no basis in the issues they claim, and that it is in fact based entirely on internal domestic politics. There is no longer any doubt in my mind that all of this is simply a "political dance" for self-serving political reasons that is severely hurting millions of innocent people in Cuba. An editorial in the Wall Street Journal said: "... if you're White House politico Karl Rove, you'd sooner see your boss declare war on Canada than risk upsetting a key constituency in a key state by lifting the embargo on Cuba⁴."

The British have this to say about George Bush's policy on Cuba: **Why Carter is smarter; George Bush's Cuba policy is in disarray: "all this raises far more questions about the Bush administration than it does about Cuba or other homes of wickedness. Firstly, who's actually in charge? Secondly, why is the "war on terror" being manipulated to suit a regressive conservative agenda? Thirdly, is presidential brother Jeb Bush's need of Cuban votes in his coming Florida gubernatorial re-election bid in any way connected? Finally, when is the US right going to stop persecuting Cuba and seek a partnership for peace"?**⁵

Mr. Fisk is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. His boss is Cuban born Otto Reich who is the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs. Mr. Reich argues before the Center for Strategic and International Studies that the U.S. should not be "throwing a lifeline to a failed, corrupt, dictatorial, murderous regime"⁶. Mr Reich has a number of Cuban born allies, including Housing Secretary Mel Martinez and White House aide Emilio Gonzalez⁷. I don't believe that Mr. Reich has been to Cuba in over 40 years now.

The report from the Center for International Policy documents the history of the relationship and events throughout the world between the U.S. and Cuba since the revolution. Contact information to obtain a copy of this report is available at the end of

⁴ Bush's Cuba Pickle". Wall Street Journal. Review & Outlook. May 9, 2002

⁵ The Guardian (England) May 15, 2002

⁶ The Associated Press, March 15, 2002

⁷ "Bush's Cuba Pickle". Wall Street Journal. Review & Outlook. May 9, 2002

this summary. I was very surprised to learn that the U.S. has a long history of deception to the American people and to the world regarding Cuba. In their report it is clear that, even if we don't agree with the form of the Cuban government or their policies, that pretty much they have always correctly represented their actions and policies to the U.S. and the world. The U.S., on the other hand, has systematically engaged in deception and hypocritical actions regarding Cuba. We say one thing but actually do the opposite. This is consistent with the frustrations that were expressed to me by Cuban officials in Havana. That is one of the things they said to me – that they try to cooperate with the U.S. government, but every time they do the U.S. changes the goal posts and continues to reject their efforts. This is particularly disturbing to me as an American Citizen. My personal name and reputation are very important to me as an individual. I carry this over to my country as a citizen. It is important to me that the United States of America – MY country – holds the importance of their name and reputation in the same high regard.

I've reached several conclusions after attending this Summit and in meeting with many Cuban-Americans and congressional representatives.

I believe the essence of the disagreement on US Policy with the embargo between Cuban-Americans (pro and con embargo), and the seemingly ridiculous position taken by some politicians, is that most of these people just don't know Cuba or the Cubans. It is very difficult to try to explain this to someone who has not been there. It was said at the meeting that you can't know Cuba if you haven't been there in recent times, and that you must have been there at least two or three times to talk to the people and get to know them. This was told to me by Cuban Americans who were at one time pro-embargo but have changed in recent years after travel there, even though they still do not support Castro. All sides of the Cuban issue share common ground in that they would all prefer to see the form of government change in Cuba and more liberties provided to the Cuban people. What differs is the idea of what Cuba is really like and how best to influence change. Many of the hard-line Cuban Americans who support the embargo have not actually been to Cuba in many years (I'm told by other Cuban Americans), or at all since the revolution – over 43 years ago. Cuba is NOT the way it was 43 years ago. Cuba is NOT the same as it was 10 years ago. Cuba is NOT the same as it was 5 years ago. **The single most important thing any political leader or citizen can do in effectively judging Cuba policy is to GO THERE NOW and take their entire family, on two or three separate trips.**

The truth of the matter is that our 40+ year old policy on Cuba IS a failed one and that it is kept intact because of animosities in one faction of the Cuban American community, primarily in Miami, and some outdated Soviet Union Communism mentality. One of my representatives pointed out, correctly I believe, that if things were going to change in Washington regarding Cuba policy that it would first have to change in Miami with the Cuban Americans. It is significant that SEVERAL HUNDRED Cuban Americans took time out from their jobs and lives, the day after the Summit, to show up in Washington to meet with representatives and hold a press conference showing their support of current legislation that would ease the embargo, and ultimately normalize relations with Cuba. Never before has the Cuban American community so strongly and publicly showed that it

is NOT of one voice that supports the embargo. Polling from Florida International University (FIU) shows that the **MAJORITY OF CUBAN AMERICANS SUPPORT LIFTING THE EMBARGO**. 84% of Cuban Americans in Miami-Dade also acknowledge that the embargo against Cuba has failed. A continued strong and public voice by these Cuban Americans is what is needed to effect any political change. The FIU polling of the Cuban Americans should at least get the healthy attention of the politicians, because they will see that **there are MORE VOTES and support in LIFTING the embargo, than by continuing it.**

All of the arguments that I have heard for continuing the embargo are based upon facts and situations that existed 5, 10 or more years ago. Things are NOT the same and I believe that the time to change U.S. policy is now. This is substantiated by in depth reports from numerous organizations, including the U.S. Congressional delegation on Cuba (Cuba working group). Instituting the embargo at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis was appropriate. There is a strong case to be made for it's continuance through Cuba's association with the former Soviet Union, and during the time when Cuba was arming revolutionaries throughout Latin America (but so was the U.S.). That time is gone and Cuba has not been engaged in these activities for some time. In fact Cuba has assumed a role of some diplomacy in trying to peacefully help work out problems between groups in Latin American countries.

It is time we changed our policy toward Cuba. Both the Texas and California State Legislatures have passed resolutions asking President Bush and Congress to end the embargo. Those Cuban Americans who support lifting the embargo are not supportive of either Castro or the form of government. They believe, like the majority of others around the world, including President Carter⁸, that the way to effect change and encourage democracy in Cuba is open exchange and personal interaction with ordinary Americans on an every day basis. We must engage them. Cubans are a dignified and proud people who have sound personal and family values. These are no different than the core values that most Americans share. In fact I see it expressed more soundly in Cuba sometimes than I see it in everyday American life. Our prosperity and personal freedom as Americans has come from our system of government and it is important for Cubans to see this personally. It is important for them to differentiate between our form of government and the abuse of it by some, which results in shameful actions and dishonesty. American politicians correctly point out the failed economic system in Cuba, while Cuban politicians correctly point out the corruption and inequities in American politics and business (some, not all of course).

Change in Cuba will come through the stimulus of personal knowledge and daily interaction with Americans. It is in our best interests to engage them now, not after Fidel Castro dies. I've posted President Jimmy Carters article about this on our website at www.BootKeyHarbor.com/Cuba.htm . Even the supporters of the embargo should see the logic in this aspect of engagement. If we engage them now the U.S. will already have a cooperative relationship with them when this critical time of change comes. In my mind

⁸ "Openings to Cuba, We must find a common ground" by President Jimmy Carter. The Washington Post. Friday, May 24, 2002

the only logical reason for wanting to continue the complete embargo up to the time of Castro's death, is if one were contemplating a violent civil war within Cuba itself and did not want the U.S. to have an already established presence. There are Cuban Americans who had significant property in Cuba when they left and they want it back. I know that violent overthrow of the government has been one of the options on the table. Reports are that there are significant stockpiles of arms and munitions smuggled in to Cuba for just this purpose. I truly think this is wrong. It's been over 43 years. The majority of Cuban Americans have gotten over it and gone on with their lives. They were there in Washington to say so.

I am further convinced that opening relationships with Cuba now will accelerate changes in the Cuban government and economic system, by the change in street talk I have heard in Cuba over the last couple years. Two years ago there was talk that Castro would still be around for another 10 years and not much would change. One year ago that changed to talk of Castro dieing and changes starting within the next couple years. Average Cuban citizens, within the last year, have been much more openly discussing their criticisms of the government and limitations on personal freedoms. With this mindset already in place I think that engagement with American citizens, who already have all these personal freedoms (except travel to Cuba of course!), will accelerate these winds of change, whenever they come. I'm not entirely sure that these changes will completely fit the mold that various U.S. factions would like, but even a socialistic democracy could make a cooperative and good neighbor. In any event, it's not our business to dictate internal policy to Cubans, except to influence those aspects of it that directly affect us or have a substantial impact on basic human rights.

In an article by Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, who is a founding member of Cuba Working Group in the House of Representatives, she says:

“By establishing better relations with Cuba now, America can guide Cuba toward a steady and permanent landing to democracy. But the longer American waits, the longer the Cuban people suffer – and the longer the American farmer suffers right along with them.”

You can get a copy of her complete one page article on my boat website at www.BootKeyHarbor.com/Cuba.htm ..

There is a prevalent myth perpetrated by the U.S. government that Castro is in power as a dictator, that the Cuban people fear him and that he retains his power only by force⁹. This is very untrue. He is respected by a considerable majority of the Cubans. It is not the repressive police state as we have been led to believe by the U.S. (though it is true Cubans lack for many personal freedoms). Castro has done much for the Cuban people including education and health care. Though the people are poor and much of the housing in shambles, there is not one homeless person there who must sleep on the streets at night. Though they are poor, there are not the most abject poor as found in most third world countries (Cuba by the way is NOT a third world country). There are no beggars. Most of

⁹ Appendix – Myths and Facts about Cuba and the Embargo. “A Time for Change – Re-thinking US Cuba Policy. Lilah Rosenblum. Washington Office on Latin America.

the discontent, including rafters fleeing from Cuba to Florida, stems from economic problems in Cuba. Cubans simply want a better life for themselves and their children.

There really are several key issues enveloped within U.S. Cuba policy. These include the right of Americans to free travel, effecting changes in Cuba and the government that are in U.S. National Interests, and the humanitarian aspects of our policies on Cuban citizens.

The RIGHT of Americans to travel freely is the very first and foremost of these issues, and has little to do with Cuba itself except that's where our government prohibits us from traveling. This is a fundamental right and every American should be outraged about it. This is especially infuriating if you believe like I do that this is entirely because of internal U.S. politics and has little or nothing to do with National Security. The U.S. Supreme court has held that the U.S. is prohibited from placing restrictions on travel by its citizens except in cases of strict National Security. The hypocrisy of the current U.S. travel ban on Cuba is seen when you consider that there is no ban on American travel to "axis of evil" countries and even Iraq – a country the U.S. administration says poses a dire National Security threat, and with which we may be about to go to war. The Administration gives further support to the travel ban because of the Communist government in Cuba. No such similar travel ban exists in other Communist countries such as China, Vietnam or North Korea. The Administration, even though President Bush publicly uses the word "travel ban" for Cuba, dances around this issue by correctly stating that there is no "travel ban" per se, only on spending money there. During Bush's administration the Treasury department (personal knowledge) has changed its approach in dealing with Americans who travel to Cuba. Previously one was considered innocent until proven guilty of having spent money (receipts, etc). Now the presumption is automatically that Americans spent money if they traveled there and they will be automatically fined several thousand dollars (\$7,500 is the customary fine) unless they can PROVE that they are innocent. While this presumption is probably true with most unhosted travel to Cuba, it is a violation of the basic premise of American justice that one is always presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty. The Administration further makes the case that licensing through OFAC provides for legal travel to Cuba by Americans and implies that this mechanism is easily available. I know by personal experience over the last couple years that this is not true. I have worked with OFAC on a license application made for humanitarian purposes almost two years ago, and have a current application request for a medical educational license. I have been given the royal runaround by the OFAC office. I have tried to meet their every request and cooperate in every fashion. My requests are for real and legitimate humanitarian purposes that are provided for by law. They have intentionally misled me, failed to tell me all of their internal requirements (until prompted by congressional calls) and just flat refused to respond to requests. I still have not heard back about the application made almost 2 years ago, that was supposed to take 3-6 weeks. Last week when I was in Washington I called the OFAC office to see if I might meet personally with someone there. I was told absolutely not, that they would contact me if they needed anything, and then asked me if I had some pressing reason to meet with their staff. The question startled me somewhat, so I told them that the reason was that I was a U.S. citizen and that they were part of my government. I was quickly told that this reason was not "good enough". Every single

American should be screaming at their representatives about this violation of fundamental rights of Americans to travel. It is rather ironic that one of the criticisms of Castro's government by the U.S. is that Cubans are restricted in their ability to freely travel! We should be DEMANDING our rights as U.S. Citizens first, and then we can move on to National Security interests and helping the Cuban people.

The problem of free travel also exists in reverse – the U.S. State department will not grant Visa's to Cubans wanting to travel to the U.S.. I met a Cuban American woman at this meeting who has a friend in Florida with cancer and needs a transplant of some type. The only possible donor is her brother who lives in Cuba. He can get permission to leave Cuba just fine from their government, but our U.S. government will not issue him a Visa. They are stalling it for many, many months and this lady may die in the interim. I'm told that this is normal practice of the State department, and I've seen some of it myself in the tales of friends in Cuba who have been denied Visa's on planned professional trips. There is also a prevailing myth that Fidel Castro will not let Cubans leave there for America. While it is true that there are many arbitrary hoops to jump through in getting permissions to travel, and Cubans resent the restrictions on their ability to travel, the main reason that they have a lottery system for allowing only a few citizens every year to immigrate to the United States, IS BECAUSE IT WAS IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT. This lottery and permission system for U.S. Visas to Cubans is administered out of the American Interest Section in Havana.

U.S. policy further exacerbates this problem with the “dry foot / wet foot” policy. I see this first hand here in the Florida Keys. The agreement by the U.S. is that if a Cuban rafter makes it on to U.S. soil then they are allowed to stay. Otherwise they are returned to Cuba. They are therefore motivated by U.S. policies to risk taking this dangerous trip across the Florida Straights. The U.S. imposes a small cap on the number of Cubans they will allow to come in through the normal immigration process, but will allow them to stay if they play the dangerous game of trying to get here anyway to make U.S. soil. Do you know how many Cubans have lost their lives because of this political game? Most Americans are not aware of this and they should insist it be changed. I am intimately familiar with the Florida Straights because I routinely cross it to Cuba in my boat. It can get VERY nasty out there, and that's in a well equipped larger boat, and I choose my weather! I'd hate to be out there in a raft. The blind robot-like enforcement of this by U.S. officials puts Cubans at further risk. I've been politely asked by friends in the U.S. Coast Guard to NOT pick up any rafters I may come across offshore. The reason for this is that my boat is federally documented and therefore qualifies as official “U.S. Soil” to our government. If I pick up a rafter in distress aboard my boat then they have made it to U.S. soil and are allowed to stay. I told my friend in the Coast Guard that if I came across someone in distress out on the water, I didn't care who it was or where they came from. I would help them first and foremost in any way I could, then let the bureaucracies work out any problems that saving someone's life may have caused our government.

Effecting political and economic changes within Cuba that are in our National Interest is the second issue. This has two aspects – Economics and National Security. The economic interest is easy to see, and that is why the American Farm Bureau is

pressing for free trade with Cuba. Reports were made available at the Summit that shows the economic impact for Americans in free trade with Cuba. To summarily understate it some, -- it's significant¹⁰. Of course it's not a major portion of America's gross national product, but it's hardly insignificant either and U.S. farmers¹¹ say so – along with hundreds of U.S. business'. We want to sell the Cubans things and they want to buy them. This will lead to changes in their government and economy. Large sales require contracts and confidence in the laws that support those contracts. Financing requires banking, international banking relationships and mechanisms, and again, confidence in law that backs those agreements. Purchase of personal property in Cuba by Americans requires a system that allows for property rights, and again, law and judicial systems that provide confidence in those rights. Free trade is also humanitarian in nature – especially foods and medicines, but I think even toilet paper and soap would qualify. The point is, if these were your friends, what American products and services would you tell them that they were not allowed to buy if they have the money? They do have money – not a lot but enough to get started, and getting started will help them make more money to spend with us.

National Security interests are a very legitimate concern and this will be significantly enhanced by cooperation with Cuba. National Security is also an area where the current Administration has tried to muddy the waters of public opinion by putting negative spins on Cuba and trying to put them in the “terrorism” basket. Several reports and references to other government reports all say that Cuba poses little or no threat to the U.S. from conventional or biological weapons or acts. To be brief, all the reports that the administration makes about harboring terrorists and criminals are entirely unfounded. There is a small kernel of truth to all of it, but if the same yardstick of judgment were applied equally then even France and Britain would be put on the list of “State sponsors of Terrorism”. The issue of political prisoners in Cuba is a real issue and frequently cited as a primary basis for continuing the embargo by the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF – the hard line embargo supporters) and the U.S. Administration. What the State department has failed to divulge however is that they have had many offers from Cuba to negotiate on exchange of prisoners, as is the practice of the U.S. with other countries. The U.S. has just flatly declined. One case in the U.S. is particularly incensing to Cubans. In the 80's a Cuban terrorist planted a bomb on a Cuban airline, blowing it up and killing all on board. He was arrested, convicted and jailed in the U.S. for these murders and act of terrorism. He has subsequently been given a full pardon and released from prison by the senior President Bush, despite protests from Cuba. The U.S. denies his extradition to Cuba. It's not terribly hard to understand why Cuba would be peeved about this, and want to negotiate exchange as is the custom of the U.S. to begin with. Knowing these things makes it fairly obvious that most of the reasons offered by the U.S. Administration in maintaining the embargo are untrue and are essentially smoke

¹⁰“ The Impact on the US Economy of Lifting Restrictions On Travel To Cuba” prepared for the Center for International Policy, by Dorothy Robyn, James Reitzes and Bryan Church of the Brattle Group, Washington DC. July 15, 2002

¹¹“ Economic Impacts of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Cuba” by Parr Rosson & Flynn Adcock. Center for North American Studies, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, under contract for The Cuba Policy Foundation, October 2001

and mirrors to camouflage the real domestic political reasons for the embargo. General Wilhelm who headed up the Southern Military Command called Cuba a 47,000 mile blind spot in his National Security “rear-view-mirror”. He maintains that not only is Cuba not a threat of any type, but that lack of a cooperative relationship creates gaping holes in intelligence gathering ability and in cooperative efforts in counter-terrorism and narcotics trafficking. Cuba has offered on many occasions to cooperate with the U.S. on these issues and the U.S. has flatly refused on each occasion. U.S. policies, therefore, that provide a communicative and cooperative relationship with Cuba is in our best National Interest NOW, not after Castro dies.

Contrary to claims by the U.S. Administration, Cuba poses NO THREAT at all to our National Security. What is most telling is the recent vote in the House regarding Cuba amendments. Congressman Goss (R-FL), who is chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, offered an amendment to condition any easing of restrictions on Cuba, including the travel ban, on President Bush certifying that Cuba is not a state sponsor of terrorism. Since September 11th the hard-line Cuban-American embargo supporters and President Bush have betted heavily on continuing Cuba’s image as a state sponsor of terrorism. But the truth came out in the vote by the members of this House Select Intelligence Committee. The amendment was defeated in the house, AND 15 OF THE 20 MEMBERS OF THIS SELECT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE VOTED AGAINST THE AMENDMENT AS WELL! These are the people that have all the classified information and are in a position to know, and they’re not worried about it at all. This preposterous positioning is significantly hurting President Bush’s real efforts against terrorism and with bolstering national security. It appears that everything under the sun that is on the Bush administrations agenda is now under the umbrella of “Terrorism”. Though I have been an avid Bush supporter in the past, that is quickly going down the tubes as his credibility is being destroyed by anyone that looks into these matters and has any inkling of intelligence to discern the truth. It is even more offensive because it appears intentionally directed to uninformed American masses that can be easily led around with half-truths and deceptions.

National Security can also be quickly enhanced by dropping the Mickey-Mouse aspects of enforcement of the embargo through the Office of Foreign Assets Control. One congressman said that OFAC uses about 10% of their resources (12 personnel out of 120) exclusively to enforce travel restrictions against Americans going to Cuba. Prior to George W Bush taking office, there were about 100-200 fines issued yearly. Immediately after he took office the number increased to almost 800 per year. These “violations” include people like the young man who spent one day in Cuba to return his missionary fathers ashes to the church he helped build in the 50’s, and was fined \$7,500 by OFAC for doing so. Or the elderly lady that took a bicycle tour through the Cuban countryside and was similarly fined \$7,500 by OFAC. And we pay our government to hire people to track down our own citizens and do this to us?? I’ve seen first hand the amount of time, effort and general harassment that US Customs can dish out to U.S. citizens EVEN WHEN THEY TRAVEL TOTALLY LEGALLY TO CUBA ON AN OFAC LICENSE! What a waste of resources, but it gets even worse than this. The Administration has identified the tracking and blocking of terrorist finances as key to our efforts to halt

terrorism. Guess which office is responsible for this work? – OFAC – The U.S. Treasury government office that has the very important job of tracking and stopping terrorist financing is devoting 10% of its personnel to tracking down little old ladies on bicycles and fining them \$7,500 for exercising their legal right to travel! This is another issue that should infuriate Americans. Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill testified in March 2002 in a Senate hearing that he would cut back on tracking down and fining these U.S. citizens if the Bush administration policy would let him. He said that the resources would be better used in chasing terrorists. He appealed to the Senate for a change in the laws that would provide for sensible discretion. The White House would not respond to a request for comment regarding O’Neill’s remarks to the Senate. Senator Graham (D-FL, and embargo supporter) in these hearings then implied to Mr. O’Neill that he might risk losing his job by publicly disagreeing with the Administrations policies, as had been Mike Parker, civilian head of the Army Corps of Engineers, when he criticized Bush’s proposed budget for the Corps. A statement was issued later from the White House, attributed to O’Neil, saying the secretary fully supports the administration’s travel ban.¹²

Humanitarian aspects of our U.S. Cuba policy on Cuban citizens is the third and most important consideration. Unfortunately I think it will be only the money and political aspects that will effect the changes, but I really don’t care why it’s changed, as long as it IS changed so that my Cuban friends are better off in their lives. The embargo was supposed to have put on the political pressure for change through the hardship of its people. There is definitely hardship but it has failed to produce the political change. It’s now time for us to change our U.S. Cuba policy. It’s obviously not working and its time for us to get on with life. Cubans are in need of the most basic of things we take for granted. When we take travelers with us on our humanitarian trips to Cuba we always advise them to take along some toilet paper – there isn’t any in the bathrooms there. Our friends are always appreciative of even small gifts like soap and toothpaste. They want batteries for their flashlights and portable radios. They’d love to buy American music on CD’s. The kids all over Cuba love baseball, so that balls, bats and caps are big hits when you pass them out. The schools need pencils, pens, crayons and paper to write on. They need books and other reading materials. Because the local people know we bring medicines and medical supplies with us, they are always asking us if we have any vitamins. They are not starving but sometimes have such a lean diet that they know they need vitamins. The embargo’s use of food as a weapon is reprehensible. The administrations allowance of food sales to Cuba is in name only, since prohibiting its financing effectively blocks routine trade with U.S. farmers, and blocking travel prevents Cubans and Americans from making the necessary arrangements for such sales.

Our focus is on the health care system and medical supplies. They’d buy this stuff if they could, but it’s outrageously expensive for them, and U.S. policy has made it almost impossible to do – even though U.S. officials deceptively state that such humanitarian sales are provided for in U.S. policy. It is on paper, but the actual practice is to do everything possible to block it. My first aid kit on the boat has more medical equipment and supplies in it than in a Cuban family physicians office. A friend of mine (thank you Sandy) performed surgeries one day with a Cuban colleague while we were in Havana.

¹² March 15, 2002, The Associated Press

They used a pitcher of water poured through a funnel into a tube for their irrigating solution! They must wash and re-use their disposable rubber gloves. Their medical equipment is very old and antiquated. Credit should be given to the brilliant engineers who keep even 50's equipment working, but parts are becoming non-existent and they really need current equipment anyway. Most medicines are almost impossible to get. We had to send down a supply of antibiotics for a Cuban friend of mine who desperately needed dental work. It was invasive enough that they would not even consider doing it until they could get some antibiotics, and they had none there. Some of the medicines, including a children's cancer medication, is available ONLY from the U.S. and the Cubans are prohibited from buying it. Many other items could ordinarily be purchased from other countries in Europe, but the distance and shipping costs make that prohibitive. The average Cuban makes about \$10-\$12 (U.S. equivalent) per month in salaries. The doctors make about \$25 per month. The initial costs of products is a problem by itself, but high shipping charges on top of that essentially kill the possibility of buying many things. It has to come from the U.S. to keep shipping costs down, and our economies must engage so that my Cuban friends will be able to earn enough money to buy the things they want. Our U.S. Cuba policy and embargo is severely hurting the average Cuban and doing nothing to bring about Cuban governmental changes that were its stated objectives. Its time now to change our policies - at the very least to provide some relief for the Cubans, even if it can't bring about political change. We already can't bring about political change there, so why keep punishing our Cuban friends?

What to do now?

The way to ultimately solve this problem of politicians continuing to play the political games because of a small but vocal pro-embargo Cuban American community is simple. Let's show them by simply voting out of office ANY President, Senator, Congressman or Governor if they continue to play these games to the detriment of the Cuban people. Let's have the majority of ALL Americans join the majority of Cuban-Americans, in casting votes that will undeniably break the myth that you have to bow to the Cuban American National Foundation in order to be elected. Such a public whipping will send an indelible message that the next set of political candidates will heed closely – and that is to govern us in consideration of our constitutional rights and a responsible position in the world community – not petty internal politics.

In the meantime - take the time write to your Congressmen and Senators about this. Tell them four things:

1. That you INSIST that the right to freely travel by Americans (including to Cuba) be immediately and totally restored.
2. That you've investigated our U.S. Cuba policy, believe it is outdated and needs to be changed. When a bill is introduced next year to drop the embargo completely you want them to support it.
3. You want them to support the current legislation that is pending in Congress to ease restrictions in the embargo.
4. Ask them to pass on to the House leadership that their constituency is insistent that no parliamentary procedure games be played with these bills that would squash the majority voices of the House and Senate.

The current legislation before Congress has amendments (Flake amendments) to the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill which was overwhelmingly passed by the House with a vote of 262-167. A similar bill is now before the Senate, and the wording in each of the bills must remain essentially the same so that when it goes back to all of Congress for a final vote, that congressional leadership won't play political games with the bill and pull out the Cuban amendments, even if they have passed both Senate and House votes.

You should contact your Senator about this current legislation because it will come up for a vote later in September or October. Have them vote YES.

These provisions include:

1. Elimination of funding to OFAC for enforcement of the travel ban (this doesn't make travel there legal – it's just that no money is available to enforce it, and it's probably that enforcement through Customs/Immigration will be turned over to the new Homeland Security department and budget anyway)
2. Elimination of an annual cap on remittances (money sent to Cuban families) that Americans are allowed to send to Cuba.
3. Allow for the financing of foods and medicines (the U.S. currently says that its OK to sell these things to the Cubans, knowing full well that cash flow problems will block most of the sales anyway, but then says its illegal for anyone to finance these “humanitarian” sales even if they want to.)

One of the Senators we met with said that even if these bills pass both house and senate (and it appears there is a very good chance for this), that there is a definite problem with Republican Congressional leadership (led by Tom Delay¹³ (R-TX)). When the bills go back to the entire congress for approval and submission to the President for signing, the leadership frequently pulls out various wording or amendments as they like. When wording in House and Senate bills differ the conference committee does have the prerogative to either change them or pull them out entirely. This is why it is important for the wording to remain the same. However, the Senator indicated that the leadership in this conference committee would frequently play games with this and arbitrarily pull out amendments as they liked, even when the wording was the same and it was illegal to do so. This is outrageous. You should ask your Senators and Congressmen to let the leadership know that the American people expect the voice of Congress to be heard and not be overridden by arbitrary political acts (manipulation of parliamentary procedure).

If you need to find the names and contact information (including websites) for your Representatives, you can find them on the website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> or your senators at www.senate.gov - or the US Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 can connect you to your members' offices. You can send an email to the President to insist that he support congressional efforts to end the embargo, at President@Whitehouse.gov .

¹³ Report prepared by the Latin American Working Group – www.lawg.org for the Sept 17th 2002 National Summit on Cuba.

Letters on letterhead will be MOST helpful, but you can also send them email by logging on to their website. If you have a good enough relationship with your representatives to speak with them about it, PLEASE do so, or at least leave a detailed message for them.

This may take some persistence, so please periodically relate these views to your representatives. Make them aware of the fact that the majority of Cuban Americans support dropping the embargo. That should really help with the states of New Jersey and Florida where a significant swing vote exists because of the Cuban American population.

Please engage in active discussions about Cuba with your friends and colleagues and bring Cuba into American consciousness. I have much information posted on my boating website (Cruising the Florida Keys and Cuba) at <http://www.BootKeyHarbor.com/Cuba.htm> . I have links posted there to the various organizations that have political or humanitarian involvement with Cuba. It's very interesting to browse through some of these sites. There are incredible pictures of Cuba and the Cuban people on many of these websites and it's worth looking at.

Make a copy of this report and pass it to a friend who might be interested. Ask them to do the same in turn, making copies and distributing it to others with the same request. Once you've read it, post it in your office where other people will see it.

GO TO CUBA!

For the physicians and nurses I work with all across the country – go to Cuba to attend one of their medical meetings. They'll have translators. You don't even need an OFAC license to do this. You qualify under the general provisions of the embargo and are allowed to go for the professional exchange. Take a copy of your medical license with you and keep a copy of the meeting agenda. When you return to the U.S. and are asked about your travel to Cuba tell the Customs and Immigration officials that you attended the medical meeting as allowed. Show them the copy of your medical (nursing) license and copy of the agenda. Don't let them keep your only copies though – have them make copies. Having said that, I can't promise you that you won't be given grief by OFAC for going. It IS legal and allowable to attend these meetings, but OFAC reactions have been unpredictable. I have not heard of any of the physician travelers being given problems for such legal travel though. We do have an application in to the OFAC office for specific licensing of this already legal travel though. My intent is to make it much easier for U.S. Physicians to meet with their Cuban counterparts and provide as much security as possible in knowing there will be no repercussions from the U.S. government upon return. We'll see how that application goes. Once American and Cuban medical professionals start meeting on a regular basis, I see relationships forming that will help us gather needed medical equipment and supplies for the Cubans, and create meaningful professional dialogue that will benefit both sides.

For anyone else that wants to go to Cuba – GO! - But do it legally according to U.S. law. There are groups listed at the end of this report that provide for licensed travel to Cuba. The easiest way though to travel to Cuba if you do not go on a license is to have a friend who is not a U.S. citizen take you there on their own dime. This is called “fully hosted”

travel. U.S. citizens are allowed to travel to Cuba, just not spend money there. OFAC officially recognizes fully hosted travel but wants to make sure its real. There is a type of “arrangement” with the Yacht Club at Hemmingway marina outside of Havana where U.S. citizens can “buy” a letter from the Yacht club that says they are fully hosted and all expenses and costs are born by the Yacht Club while they are there. This is of course not true and U.S. Customs and Immigration know it. You can however get a real life friend to do this for you. Call up your Canadian buddy and talk to them about it. Make sure you also get a letter from them that will vouch for the fact that they are picking up all the tabs and you will not be spending money in any fashion for the travel to Cuba or while in Cuba.

When you go, take your entire family with you. It’s safe and the Cuban people are genuinely friendly to Americans. Speaking some Spanish is helpful but not absolutely necessary. The tourist type of places where you’ll be most of the time always has people who speak good English. You can even hire a dedicated car and driver who speaks English for about \$35 a day in many places. You can get the details on airline connections and travel agents that can help on the BootKeyHarbor.com website I’ve mentioned. Essentially you can fly to the Bahamas, Mexico or Canada, and then pick up a flight on Cubano airlines into Havana or other cities. You can’t book it all the way through but you can make a reservation and buy a separate roundtrip ticket (about \$210 including the Cuban Visa) once you land in that country. The website tells how.

If you’re a licensed group and want to take people over by boat, look into our [BootKeyHarbor](http://BootKeyHarbor.com) website. There’s a page there that is starting to link up willing boats and captains (shared costs, not charter) in the Florida Keys with licensed groups.

More Information and Contacts:

www.BootKeyHarbor.com/Cuba.htm - author’s boating website that contains a significant amount of information on travel to Cuba and links to many other sites. It will also have some of the key reports from this Summit meeting posted on the website along with a full .pdf copy of this summary.

www.nationalsummitoncuba.org – website for this conference.

Cuban Health Network

www.CubanHealthNetwork.org

Nonprofit organization organizing the donation and transportation of needed medical equipment and supplies to Cuba.

Washington Office on Latin America

1630 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 200, Washington DC 20009

Tel 202-797-2171, Fax 202-797-2172 www.wola.org

(May 2002 report from them: “*A time for change – rethinking US-Cuba policy*”)

This is an excellent report and you should get a copy.

Latin America Working Group

110 Maryland Ave NE, Box 15, Washington DC 20077-8170

Tel: 202-546-7010 www.lawg.org

This is an excellent website that will keep you apprised of the latest legislation regarding Cuba. It is involved in policy education and advocacy. It maintains an email network of people interested in helping promote change in US Cuba policy, and will, if requested, provide you with timely periodic updates when important policy matters are pending.

Professional Medical Education Association

Gregory Absten, Executive Director

PO Box 522379, Marathon Shores FL 33052

Tel: 305-289-9056 Fax: 305-946-0232 www.MedicalSymposia.org

(This is the author's website. Medical meetings in Cuba will be listed on this site)

www.cubaweb.cu – listing of Cuban websites with Cuban media, speeches, announcements, and other official information.

Alamar Associations – Consultants on Trade and Business with Cuba

Kirby Jones, President

2000 L St NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20036

Tel: 202-530-5234 Fax: 202-530-5235

alacuba@aol.com www.alamarcuba.com

Cuba Policy Foundation

Washington based organization led by senior diplomats in Republican Administrations
2300 M Street NW, Eight Floor, Washington DC 20037

Tel: 202-835-0200, Fax: 202-835-0291 www.CubaPolicyFoundation.org

(has report by agricultural economists citing \$4.84 billion annually in U.S. losses from agriculture & related sectors. Also has report from Rice University showing \$2-\$3 billion annual potential for U.S. Energy industry)

Lexington Institute

Peter Phillips, Vice President

1655 Fort Myer Drive, Arlington VA 22209

Tel: 703-522-5828 www.lexingtoninstitute.org

(prepared report: “**SURVIVAL STORY: Cuba’s Economy in the Post-Soviet Decade**”) studies on Cuba’s economy

Brattle Group

1133 Twentieth St NW, Suite 800, Washington DC 20036

Tel: 202-955-5050, Fax: 202-955-5059 office@brattle.com

(prepared report for the Center for International Policy on “*The Impact on the U.S. Economy of Lifting Restrictions on Travel to Cuba*”)

Emergent Genetics

Sam Dryden, Managing Director
1941 Pearl St, Ste 200
Boulder CO 80302

SomaLogic

Larry Gold, CEO and Chairman
1775 38th St
Boulder CO 80301

Both of these groups have spent more than ten years traveling to Cuba to monitor and discuss Cuban biotechnology. Their report at the summit was that U.S. biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries could significantly benefit from open and direct interactions with the Cubans.

The Closest of Enemies – book by Wayne Smith, Chief of U.S. Interests Section in Havana from 1979-1982. One section describes overtures in 1981-82 whereby Cubans urged negotiations in Central America and between the U.S. and Cuba. He describes how the U.S. would keep changing the goal posts and refuse to cooperate with the Cubans.

Center for International Policy

1717 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20036

Tel: 202-232-3317, Fax: 202-232-3317, www.ciponline.org

This is a nonprofit educational and research organization whose mission is to promote a U.S. foreign policy based on international cooperation, demilitarization and respect for basic human rights. They have the special report “*Cuba on the terrorist list: In defense of the nation or political calculation?*” – This is an excellent 10 page report. It essentially debunks all the claims that the Bush administration is making against Cuba being a terrorist nation, and exposes the hypocrisy and deceit of the U.S. government over the years in dealing with Cuba. I will scan it and post it on the BootKeyHarbor.com website.

Cuba News

a free email service through Yahoo that will gather all Cuba related materials daily through mainstream and alternative media and send it to you by individual email, a daily digest, or web-only.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CubaNews/>

Georgetown University Cuba Briefing Paper Series

www.georgetown.edu/sfs/programs/clas/Caribe/cbps.htm

Series of in depth papers covering economic, social and political topics

Canadian Foundation for the Americas

www.focal.ca

paper on “**Cuba’s Economic Performance and the Challenges Ahead**”

US-Cuba Sister Cities Association

Lisa Valanti

320 Lowenhill St, Pittsburgh PA 15216

Tel: 412-563-1519 Fax: 412-563-1945

USCSCA@aol.com , www.USCSCA.org

organization putting together similar U.S. and Cuban cities and fostering people to people contact.

Cuban American Alliance Education Fund, Inc (CAAEF)

Delvis Fernandez Levy, PhD , President

614 Maryland Ave NE, Ste 2 , Washington DC 20002-5825

Tel: 202-543-6780 Fax: 202-543-6434

caaef@igc.org www.cubamer.org

- nonprofit national network of Cuban Americans that educates on issues related to hardships caused by current United States-Cuba relations.

www.Cubanos.org

is organized to help you form your own opinions on matters related to Cuba. To this end, the Discover section serves as a clearinghouse (a portal) for the best of what the web has to offer on topics dealing with Cuba, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Cuban cigars, Cuba travel, Cuban links, maps, news, Havana, Latin music, Cuba tours, tourism, trade sanctions, the U.S. economic embargo, the exile community, and much more. The real purpose, beyond our Cuba portal function is to help you turn your interest and passion into action. (Note from webmaster - This is a GREAT site. The image gallery has tons of great photos from our local (Florida Keys) photographer Larry Benvenuti.)

World Reach

Rusty Price, Director of the Cuban project

Raleigh North Carolina, Tel: 888-596-5078

www.cubashare.org

This nonprofit religious organization supports humanitarian relief efforts around the World. Cuba is a major benefactor of their efforts. They need your financial support.

Conchord Cayo Hueso.

John Young, Executive Director

Key West, Florida Tel: 305-294-0205 jitters@aol.com

www.geocities.com/conchordcayohueso/

Humanitarian group out of Key West that arranges for donations to Cuba through American travelers. They do have an export license to allow such donations, but do not have an OFAC travel license.

www.Cuba.com

The official Cuban Government website

www.cubanacan.cu

Cuban Tourism. The official Cuban travel agency

Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury

1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Treasury Annex

Washington DC 20220 Tel: 202-622-2480

www.treas.gov/ofac

Office that regulates licensing and enforcement of travel to Cuba by Americans.

www.treas.gov/ofac/legal/index.html

Copies of Executive Orders, United Nations Security Council Resolutions, Statutes, and Regulations related to OFAC's programs, including Cuba, in *.PDF format

Other Cuba Travel Groups:

Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba

Lissa Weinmann, Executive Director

www.AHTC.org e-mail: lweinmann@ahtc.org

Tel: 718-416-1653

One of the sponsors of this meeting, they also have a Treasury license for travel to Cuba by qualified groups. Their humanitarian efforts toward Cuba are far more ranging than simply the travel aspects.

Puentes Cubanos

Sylvia Wilhelm, Executive Director

Cubapuate@aol.com or (305) 858-4002

Travel group licensed by the Treasury Dept to conduct educational, professional and cultural exchanges between people of Cuba and the United States. She was the primary coordinator for the American Advocacy Day to support changes to Cuba policy, in Washington the day after the summit meeting.

Center for Cuban Studies

travel seminars and licensed travel to Cuba

124 W 23rd St, NY, NY 10011

Tel: 212-242-0559 Fax: 212-242-1937

www.cubaupdate.org , www.cubanartspace.net

CubaNow.org

John Gilderbloom, PhD, Executive Director

1931 Eastview Ave, Ste 3, Louisville, KY 40205

Tel: 502-479-3666 Fax: 502-459-4908

cubanow@mindspring.com , www.cubanow.org

Island Travel & Tours Ltd.

2111 Wisconsin Ave NW, Ste 319, Washington, DC 20007, USA

Tel: 866-488-8687 Fax: 202-342-3308,

E-mail: INFO@ISLANDTRAVELTOURS.COM www.IslandTravelTours.com

Common Ground Education & Travel Services

55 Norfolk St, Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: 617-661-7653, 877-661-7653 Fax: 617-491-1543, E-mail:
commonground@mdeiaone.net , no web site

Cuba Linda

www.cubalinda.com

German travel agency that can book flights for you and offers advice to US travelers to Cuba on this website.

MILA Tours

Vicki Martin, Cultural and Educational programs specialist

100 S Greenleaf, Gurnee IL 60031-3378 Tel: 847-625-3571 Fax: 847-249-2772

www.MILATours.com

licensed travel to Cuba

Viajes America, & Center for Development Studies

Alexandra Jost, Executive Director

Washington DC, Tel: 202-333-3921 alijost10025@yahoo.com

Travel to Cuba. Hosts Cultural and Artistic programs