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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DISPATCH  
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 37, SEPTEMBER 12, 1994  
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## ARTICLE 5:

U.S.-Cuba Joint Communique on Migration  
Following is the text of the U.S.-Cuba Joint  
Communique on migration, New York City, September 9,  
1994

Representatives of the United States of America and  
the Republic of Cuba today concluded talks  
concerning their mutual interest in normalizing  
migration procedures and agreed to take measures to  
ensure that migration between the two countries is  
safe, legal, and orderly.

### Safety of Life at Sea

The United States and the Republic of Cuba recognize  
their common interest in preventing unsafe  
departures from Cuba which risk loss of human life.  
The United States underscored its recent decisions  
to discourage unsafe voyages. Pursuant to those  
decisions, migrants rescued at sea attempting to  
enter the United States will not be permitted to  
enter the United States, but instead will be taken  
to safe haven facilities outside the United States.  
Further, the United States has discontinued its  
practice of granting parole to all Cuban migrants  
who reach U.S. territory in irregular ways. The  
Republic of Cuba will take effective measures in  
every way it possibly can to prevent unsafe  
departures using mainly persuasive methods.

### Alien Smuggling

The United States and the Republic of Cuba reaffirm  
their support for the recently adopted United  
Nations General Assembly resolution on alien  
smuggling. They pledged their cooperation to take  
prompt and effective action to prevent the transport  
of persons to the United States illegally. The two  
governments will take effective measures in every  
way they possibly can to oppose and prevent the use

of violence by any persons seeking to reach, or who arrive in, the United States from Cuba by forcible diversions of aircraft and vessels.

#### Legal Migration

The United States and the Republic of Cuba are committed to directing Cuban migration into safe, legal and orderly channels consistent with strict implementation of the 1984 joint communique. Accordingly, the United States will continue to issue, in conformity with United States law, immediate relative and preference immigrant visas to Cuban nationals who apply at the U.S. Interests Section and are eligible to immigrate to the United States. The United States also commits, through other provisions of United States law, to authorize and facilitate additional lawful migration to the United States from Cuba. The United States ensures that total legal migration to the United States from Cuba will be a minimum of 20,000 Cubans each year, not including immediate relatives of United States citizens. As an additional, extraordinary measure, the United States will facilitate in a one-year period the issuance of documentation to permit the migration to the United States of those qualified Cuban nationals in Cuba currently on the immigrant visa waiting list. To that end, both parties will work together to facilitate the procedures necessary to implement this measure. The two governments agree to authorize the necessary personnel to allow their respective interests sections to implement the provisions of this communique effectively.

#### Voluntary Return

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed that the voluntary return of Cuban nationals who arrived in the United States or in safe havens outside the United States on or after August 19, 1994 will continue to be arranged through diplomatic channels.

#### Excludables

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed to continue to discuss the return of Cuban nationals excludable from the United States.

#### Review of Agreement

The representatives of the United States and the Republic of Cuba agree to meet no later than 45 days from today's announcement to review implementation of this Joint Communique. Future meetings will be scheduled by mutual agreement.

For the Government of The United States of America:  
(Michael Skol)  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Inter-American Affairs

For the Government of The Republic of Cuba:  
(Ricardo Alarcon)  
President  
Cuban National Assembly

New York, September 9, 1994

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