

**The Center for International Policy
Takes Pleasure in Inviting you to a Conference to Call for Immediate Steps
To Improve Relations With Cuba**

**January 25, 2011
8:30 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.**

at

**The University of California Washington Center
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW
Washington, D.C.**

President Obama's easing of travel restrictions and the new measures permitting Americans to send money to Cuban citizens are vitally important steps toward a U.S. Cuban policy that serves U.S. interests, as present policy has not. Our original conference agenda had called for these travel restrictions to be removed. We are delighted that they have been and have revised the conference agenda accordingly. But we must build on these steps to move relations with Cuba in a positive direction. Lifting the embargo requires congressional approval and that will not come easily. The process should begin, but meanwhile there are other steps not requiring congressional approval that could and should be taken as soon as possible. These include removing Cuba from the terrorist list, closing Radio and TV Marti and halting programs aimed at destabilizing other governments. All are discussed in the conference agenda below.

The U.S. has consistently shifted the goal posts on Cuba. We now have an opportunity to change that. In his election campaign, President Obama indicated he would rethink Cuba policy if Cuba released political prisoners. Not only have the Cubans begun to do that, but they have initiated a major economic transformation, one that will be very difficult and challenging to bring to a positive outcome without assistance from multilateral financial institutions. Now, with the easing of the travel regulations and expansion of remittances, President Obama has begun to respond. At our conference on January 25, we will urge that he use the momentum to take further steps quickly.

The Jan 25 Conference

8:30 -9:00 a.m. – coffee and registration

9:00 – 9:15 – Introduction by Wayne S. Smith, Center for International Policy

9:15 -9:45 – Discussion of the easing of restrictions on academic travel. Where does it leave us. What restrictions remain?

Discussion leader – Dr. Philip Brenner, American University

- 9:45 – 10:15 – Discussion of the removal of restrictions on People-to-People Travel.
Where does it leave us? What restrictions remain?
Discussion leader – Robert Muse, of Muse and Associates
- 10:15 – 11:00 – Call to remove Cuba from the list of terrorist states. There is no evidence at all that justifies its inclusion on that list. Keeping it there undercuts the credibility of our position against terrorism, as, even more so, does our failure to bring to justice known terrorists in Miami, such as Luis Posada Carriles, and to try them for terrorism, not for lesser charges.
Discussion leader – Col (Ret) Larry Wilkerson, Harriman Visiting Professor Of Government and Public Policy at the College of William and Mary
- 11:00 – 11:15 – coffee break
- 11:15 – 11:45 – Radio and TV Marti should be closed because they are not in compliance with U.S. treaty obligations regarding international telecommunications and do not meet minimum standards for accuracy and objectivity.
Discussion leader – Prof. John Nichols, Penn State University
- 11:45-12:30 – If we are to encourage mutual respect in the hemisphere, we should eliminate programs designed to destabilize other countries, such as the one under which Alan Gross was operating when he was arrested, a program which continued efforts launched by the Helms-Burton Law to bring about regime change in Cuba. U.S. funded programs in Cuba should be fully consistent with diplomatic norms and have the consent of the Cuban government – the same conditions on the other side that we would require of any Cuban-funded program in the U.S.
Discussion leader – Arturo Lopez-Levy, Lecturer and Ph. D. candidate at The Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.
- 12:30 – 12:45 – Wayne Smith will refer to the situation of the so-called Cuban Five and the Obama administration’s refusal to have the Supreme Court hear their case. CIP plans to hold a conference on the issue shortly.
- 12:45 -1:15 p.m.- Where do we go from here in bringing about the new steps indicated above to improve relations with Cuba.

More About the Discussion Leaders

Dr. Philip Brenner is Professor of International Relations and Affiliate Professor of History at American University. His most recent book is *A Contemporary Cuba Reader* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007). He is also the co-author of *Sad and Luminous Days*:

Cuba's Struggle with the Superpowers after the Missile Crisis (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). A specialist on U.S. policy towards Latin America, Dr. Brenner is on the Board of Directors of the Center for International Policy, a member of the advisory board of the National Security Archive, and of the Center for Democracy in the Americas.

Arturo Lopez-Levy is a lecturer and Doctoral Candidate at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He is a Research Associate of the Institute for the Study of Israel and the Middle East (ISIME) and teaches Latin American Politics, and Comparative Politics at the University of Denver and the Colorado School of Mines. He has also been a fellow of the Inter-American Dialogue (2004), the Carter Center (2005), and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (2005). He frequently publishes articles and opinion pieces in publications such as *Foreign Policy*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Note* and the *Havana Note*. In Cuba, Lopez-Levy worked a Secretary of the Bnai Brith Lodge of the Cuban Jewish Community (1999-2001) and as a political analyst for the Cuban government (1993-1994).

Robert Muse is a lawyer in Washington, D.C. with substantial experience in U.S. laws relating to Cuba. Among his clients are major corporations engaged in international trade and foreign direct investment. He has testified on legal issues involving Cuba before the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Standing Committee of the Canadian House of Commons; the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the External Economic Relations Committee of the European Parliament (Brussels) as well as the Parliament's inter-party group on Cuba (Strasbourg). Mr. Muse has delivered papers on the Helms-Burton Act and other U.S. embargo laws pertaining to Cuba at conferences sponsored by the Economist and various legal and international relations foundations based in London, Miami, Washington, D.C., Brussels, Toronto, Ottawa, Havana, Madrid, Barcelona and Amsterdam.

John Spicer Nichols Is Professor Emeritus of Communications and International Affairs at Penn State University. He has conducted research on Cuban communication issues for more than three decades and is the author of numerous works on Radio and TV Marti, including "U.S.-Cuba Propaganda Wars: The Case of Television Marti," in *International Communication: Concepts and Cases* (Kwadwo Anokwa, et al., eds 2002). He has also testified frequently regarding Radio and TV Marti before various congressional committees and subcommittees, beginning in 1982 and most recently in 2009 (see "TV Marti has virtually no audience, violates international law, and should be closed," hearing before the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, June 17, 2009). Nichols recently retired from Penn State after nearly 34 years as a faculty member and administrator but continues his research on Cuban media. He may be reached at JSN2@psu.edu.

Wayne S. Smith was Third Secretary of Embassy at the U.S. Embassy in Havana from August of 1958 until the U.S. broke diplomatic relations in January of 1961. He was Director of Cuban Affairs in the Department of State from 1977 until 1979, when he

became Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. He left the Foreign Service in 1982 because of his disagreements with policy. He has been Senior Fellow of the Center for International Policy since 1992 and directs its Cuba program. He is also Adjunct Professor of Latin American Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. His publications include *The Closest of Enemies: A Personal and Diplomatic History of the Castro Years* (W.W.Norton, 1987), and *Portrait of Cuba* (Turner Publishing, 1991). He was also the coauthor, along with Esteban Morales, of *Subject to Solution: Problems in Cuban-U.S. Relations* (Lynne Rienner, 1988), which won the Critic award in 1989 as one of the best academic books reviewed that year.

Colonel (Ret) Lawrence Wilkerson is the Harriman Visiting Professor of Government and Public Policy at the College of William and Mary and a Professorial Lecturer in the Honors Program at the George Washington University. Wilkerson's last position in government was as chief of staff to Secretary of State Collin Powell from 2002-2005.

The Center for International Policy Wishes to Express its Appreciation to the Christopher Reynolds Foundation for the Generous Support Which Made This Conference Possible.

Should you have questions, please contact our Cuba Intern

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