



IMMIGRATION
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Linda M. Evans
Chief Immigration Officer

Mr. Richard Coles
Chairman Human Rights Commission
P.O. Box 391
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Dear Mr. Coles,

Thank you for sending me the Human Rights Commission's draft report on the review of policies as they relate to Cuban Migrants. I am satisfied that the content of the report as it relates to this Department is accurate and reflects our discussions with representatives from the Commission.

I wish to reiterate though, in regard to the Commission's recommendation on page 5, that this Department makes every effort to ensure that applications for asylum are processed expediently. The fact that groups of Cuban migrants can spend lengthy periods in the Cayman Islands is not as a result of delays in processing asylum applications but is instead due to the failure of the Government of Cuba to provide its authorization to accept the repatriation of its nationals within the timelines contained in the MoU. This is a matter of serious concern due to the significant costs that fall to the Cayman Islands Government and it is hoped that this matter will be addressed as part of the ongoing reviews of the MoU.

With respect to section 84(12) of the Immigration Law (2012 Revision) I agree that this is in conflict with the Cayman Islands Government's policy of non-assistance and I undertake to draw this to the attention of the Portfolio of Internal & External Affairs for further review.

Finally, with respect to references in the report to our immigration legislation I should point out that the Immigration Law (2012 Revision) is current rather than the Immigration Law (2010 Revision).

Yours faithfully,

Linda M. Evans
CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER

