

# White House approves assistance to Cuba

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
**HAVANA/MIAMI (IPS)**  
 — Direct flights between the United States and Cuba resumed June 11 with a shipment of humanitarian aid coordinated by the Roman Catholic Church — the first since such flights were suspended in August 1994.

The shipment of food, medicine and medical equipment, sent by the Archdiocese of Miami in a D-6 airplane that took off from the Fort Lauderdale international airport, is being distributed in Cuba by the Catholic humanitarian organization Caritas.

"We cannot provide the exact weight of the shipment. Although the medical supplies are very light, they have to be carefully packed, and thus occupy space," Peter Coats,

with the Archdiocese of Miami, told IPS. "We filled 15 containers with medicine and food."

On the flight's arrival in Havana, reporters accredited in Cuba were not allowed access to any of the people accompanying the shipment.

The monetary value of the aid was not announced in Cuba, but according to press reports in the United States, it could total approximately \$1 million.

Most of the medical equipment and supplies — which include sterilized gloves, syringes, hypodermic needles, antibiotics and aspirin — will go to a hospital for leprosy patients and a nursing home in Havana.

Direct shipments of humanitarian aid have been eagerly awaited in Cuba since U.S. President Bill Clinton

announced on March 21 that several sanctions against the government of Fidel Castro would be lifted.

The decision came in response to Pope John Paul II's call to the world to be open to Cuba, issued from Havana during his historic visit there last January.

Clinton authorized the resumption of direct flights between the two countries, money remittances from Cuban-Americans to their families on the island, and the simplification of bureaucratic procedures for shipping medical supplies.

But the measures remained on hold until May 13, when the precise regulations for their implementation were announced by the corresponding entities.

Both direct flights and

money transfers were suspended on orders issued by Clinton himself on Aug. 20, 1994 in response to Cuba's decision to clear the way to anyone wishing to emigrate to the United States.

Although migration accords signed Sept. 9, 1994 put an end to the "rafters crisis," the sanctions remained in place.

The Miami-Havana route was reopened with today's flight. But flights carrying passengers — mainly Cuban exiles visiting their families — could be delayed due to organizational questions.

In the case of donations to nongovernmental organizations, the Clinton administration is reviewing each request on a case by case basis to determine whether the  
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# Black Civil War troops to be memorialized

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From Wednesday through Saturday, the long ignored contribution of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) to the Union effort in winning the Civil War will finally be recognized in the nation's capitol in a series of events and ceremonies.

The highlight of the four-day event will be the dedication of the African-American Civil War Memorial and the unveiling of the "Spirit of Freedom" sculpture. Other activities include: the second annual tribute at the Arlington National Cemetery to honor and recognize the 208,943 U.S. Colored troops and their White officers and the estimated 30,000 sailors who served in the Civil War.

There will also be a symposium hosted by Howard University to salute Dr. John Hope Franklin, chair of the Presidential Commission on Race, and to address the history of the USCT. A Re-enactors Parade to salute the USCT will travel along a route chosen in memory of George Washington Williams.

He not only fought in the Civil War, he was later elected to Congress where he introduced a bill to have a memorial erected at the site now known as Banneker Field on historic Georgia Avenue, to honor the Black soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The Bill passed in the house but not the senate.

# Consumers

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by Mfume was on the subject of health care. He encouraged NAACP members to participate in meaningful, "street-level" advocacy efforts to improve health care access. "You can't fight for civil rights when your body is racked with pain from cancer or AIDS."

Mfume's sharpest challenge to the delegates came on the issue of African-American youth. He praised ACT-SO, the NAACP's program dedicated to the educational enrichment of youth, for challenging and uplifting young people to strive for their personal best. However, he also acknowledged that "too many of our young people are going to jail. We must strive to give

them a sense of purpose and belonging."

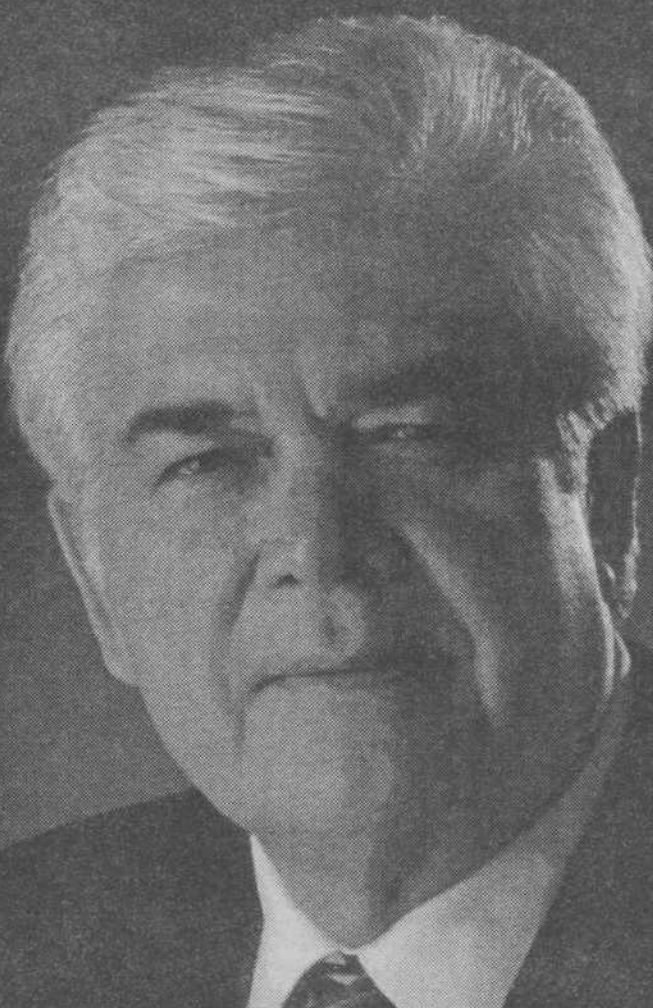
Mfume stressed that the only way to bring young people back into the fold and give them a sense of responsibility is to commit to a return of values, decency and respect in communities across the country. "Moses didn't bring down the Ten Suggestions from the mountain ... we must be prepared to clean up our act."

In addition to social and economic challenges in the United States, Mfume encouraged members to pay attention to events in Africa. "We have a responsibility to promote social and economic development in Africa, for our brothers and sisters there." Mfume was a member of the President's delegation to Africa

earlier this summer and was moved by the suffering he witnessed. "I commend President Clinton on his recent trip to Africa ... we saw many things that moved us greatly, but so much needs to be done." Mfume encouraged delegates to attend the convention's town hall meeting on Africa Wednesday night to hear the issues facing the continent firsthand in order to help America shape a more humane foreign policy.

Prior to Mfume's remarks, Georgia Governor Zell Miller welcomed the delegates. The Rev. R. L. White, president of the Atlanta NAACP Branch, and H. Allen Franklin, President/CEO of Georgia Power Company, also addressed the delegates.

# THE HONEST ANSWER FOR A SAFER FUTURE.



**CHUCK  
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- 1954-1957 UNITED STATES ARMY PARATROOPER, 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION  
 - INTELLIGENCE ANALYST
- 1960-1968 CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 - AS A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE, CHUCK EARNS TWO DECORATIONS FOR SOLVING TOUGH CASES.
- 1968-1983 CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/  
 LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 - CHUCK IS PROMOTED TO DETECTIVE ON THE DAY OF HIS ACADEMY GRADUATION.  
 - CHUCK IS SELECTED FOR POLYGRAPH TRAINING ACADEMY WHERE HE GRADUATED AS CLASS VALEDICTORIAN.  
 - CHUCK'S INVESTIGATIONS AND POLYGRAPH SKILLS BREAK HUNDREDS OF MURDER CASES INCLUDING THE HILTON ARSON FIRE.
- 1983-1991 CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
 - BOB MILLER HIRES CHUCK AS ASSISTANT CHIEF INVESTIGATOR.  
 - CHUCK WORKS INTELLIGENCE AND MAJOR VIOLATORS UNIT.
- 1991-PRESENT AS CO-OWNER OF COURTESY OLDSMOBILE/ISUZU/KIA, CHUCK HAS LED HIS BUSINESSES TO THE #1 POSITION IN THEIR REGION AND KEPT THEM THERE.

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HE HAS THE ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS FOR CHUCK LEE. PHIL HOLTZMAN, TREASURER