

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Jenkins, James E.: Files
Folder Title: South Florida Task Force
Box: OA 10726

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON SOUTH FLORIDA

January 27, 1982

Roosevelt Room

Minutes

Attendees: The Vice President, Secretary Weinberger, Secretary Lewis, Tim McNamar (Treasury), Robert Powis (Treasury), Rudy Giuliani (Justice), Richard Kennedy (State), Diego Asencio (State), Daniel Murphy, Jim Jenkins, Kenneth Cribb, Carlton Turner, and Thad Garrett.

The Vice President called the meeting to order and indicated that the President has asked him to head a task force to address problems in South Florida. Massive immigration, rampant crime, and epidemic drug smuggling have created an intolerable situation for the citizens of that area. Secretaries Haig, Weinberger, Regan, Lewis, Attorney General Smith, and Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese will serve as members of the task force. A working group will be headed by Daniel Murphy and will include Ken Cribb, Carlton Turner, and personal representatives of the task force members. The work of the task force will be cleared through the normal White House structure: Office of Cabinet Affairs and Office of the Deputy to the Chief of Staff.

Daniel Murphy indicated that the task force will review the efforts already underway to deal with this problem and will then assess further steps that can be taken at the federal level.

The following issues were addressed:

(1) DOD Assistance. Secretary Weinberger reported that the temporary operations (October 1, 1981-December 16, 1981) involving DOD military assistance was a substantial success. 26,000 lbs. of marijuana were seized, 993 lbs. of cocaine were seized, and 29 pilots were arrested. Continued DOD participation of this sort, however, would necessarily drain our military readiness in the southeastern U.S. at a time when Cuba is involved in a major buildup of Soviet arms. DOD will cooperate, however, to the extent that is possible.

(2) On-site Coordinator in South Florida. Daniel Murphy indicated that an on-site coordinator, similar to the arrangement for the Atlanta Task Force, would be desirable as a single point of contact between the task force and local entities. DOJ expressed reservations based on a possible conflict with the proper role of the U.S. Attorney. It was agreed that a local coordinator would be

appointed but that the U.S. Attorney would retain full authority in his own sphere of law enforcement activities.

(3) Additional Personnel for the U.S. Attorney's Office. There have been complaints that the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Florida is seriously undermanned. DOJ reported that part of the problem is that the present U.S. Attorney is a lame duck and has not filled any of the Assistant U.S. Attorney vacancies. A new U.S. Attorney is expected to be in place by the end of next week and will be in position to fill twelve Assistant U.S. Attorney vacancies, as well as six new positions created in October.

(4) Additional Personnel for FBI, DEA, and INS. The following increases in law enforcement personnel are planned in the near future for the Miami area:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
FBI	180	220
DEA	91	112

In addition, the staff of the INS in the Miami area will increase by 35%.

(5) Coast Guard Assistance. Drew Lewis reported that the Coast Guard interdiction is already spread very thin. As a practical matter, it is easy for drug smugglers to elude the Coast Guard. To make a difference, Coast Guard forces would have to be doubled. There is no way to do this within current budget constraints. An additional cutter could be supplied for symbolic purposes.

(6) Federal Courts. The Chief Judge of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida has authorized ten additional judges to come in in March. He has not agreed, however, to a general calendar system which would ease the burden on the U.S. Attorney's Office. Perhaps a White House figure could be helpful in persuading him on this latter point.

(7) Visit by the Vice President. The desirability of having the Vice President visit the area in connection with the work of the task force will be explored.

(8) Haitians. The Haitian refugees are not part of this problem and there should be no implication to the contrary. Those responsible for the local crime wave are some 5,000 of the Cubans who were not law abiding while in Cuba and have continued their activities in this country.

(9) Drug Agreements with Other Countries. State will step up its efforts to secure satisfactory agreements on paraquat spraying with countries which are major sources of the drugs entering this area.

(10) Customs Efforts. DEA is only prosecuting 18% of those seized for drug-related acts. This matter will be looked into.

(11) Representation on the Working Group. Agencies represented on the task force will notify Ken Cribb as to their representatives on the working group to chaired by Daniel Murphy.

NOTE: The working group will meet on Thursday, February 4, 1982 at 11:00 AM in the Roosevelt Room.

THCA
Kenneth Cribb, Jr.

RE: MIAMI CRIME PROBLEM

27 January 1982

Returned phone call of Armando Codina of the Federal Action Task Force, Miami Chamber of Commerce. Advised him that the President had taken a personal interest in this matter and had requested the Vice President to head a Task Force, composed of the secretaries of the various departments involved. Advised him that the Vice President had conducted a meeting with the Task Force and that it appeared we could accomplish much of what they wished. Also advised him that the Vice President or Dan Murphy would be calling him.

He was very appreciative of the personal interest and assistance which was being provided. He will be reporting to the Chamber of Commerce on 31 January concerning the progress and that the Vice President will be announcing our plan when he visits Miami the latter part of Florida. He will coordinate this last part of the report with the Vice President's office.

SS file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON SOUTH FLORIDA

January 27, 1982

Roosevelt Room

Minutes

Attendees: The Vice President, Secretary Weinberger, Secretary Lewis, Tim McNamar (Treasury), Robert Powis (Treasury), Rudy Giuliani (Justice), Richard Kennedy (State), Diego Asencio (State), Daniel Murphy, Jim Jenkins, Kenneth Cribb, Carlton Turner, and Thad Garrett.

The Vice President called the meeting to order and indicated that the President has asked him to head a task force to address problems in South Florida. Massive immigration, rampant crime, and epidemic drug smuggling have created an intolerable situation for the citizens of that area. Secretaries Haig, Weinberger, Regan, Lewis, Attorney General Smith, and Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese will serve as members of the task force. A working group will be headed by Daniel Murphy and will include Ken Cribb, Carlton Turner, and personal representatives of the task force members. The work of the task force will be cleared through the normal White House structure: Office of Cabinet Affairs and Office of the Deputy to the Chief of Staff.

Daniel Murphy indicated that the task force will review the efforts already underway to deal with this problem and will then assess further steps that can be taken at the federal level.

The following issues were addressed:

(1) DOD Assistance. Secretary Weinberger reported that the temporary operations (October 1, 1981-December 16, 1981) involving DOD military assistance was a substantial success. 26,000 lbs. of marijuana were seized, 993 lbs. of cocaine were seized, and 29 pilots were arrested. Continued DOD participation of this sort, however, would necessarily drain our military readiness in the southeastern U.S. at a time when Cuba is involved in a major buildup of Soviet arms. DOD will cooperate, however, to the extent that is possible.

(2) On-site Coordinator in South Florida. Daniel Murphy indicated that an on-site coordinator, similar to the arrangement for the Atlanta Task Force, would be desirable as a single point of contact between the task force and local entities. DOJ expressed reservations based on a possible conflict with the proper role of the U.S. Attorney. It was agreed that a local coordinator would be

appointed but that the U.S. Attorney would retain full authority in his own sphere of law enforcement activities.

(3) Additional Personnel for the U.S. Attorney's Office. There have been complaints that the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Florida is seriously undermanned. DOJ reported that part of the problem is that the present U.S. Attorney is a lame duck and has not filled any of the Assistant U.S. Attorney vacancies. A new U.S. Attorney is expected to be in place by the end of next week and will be in position to fill twelve Assistant U.S. Attorney vacancies, as well as six new positions created in October.

(4) Additional Personnel for FBI, DEA, and INS. The following increases in law enforcement personnel are planned in the near future for the Miami area:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
FBI	180	220
DEA	91	112

In addition, the staff of the INS in the Miami area will increase by 35%.

(5) Coast Guard Assistance. Drew Lewis reported that the Coast Guard interdiction is already spread very thin. As a practical matter, it is easy for drug smugglers to elude the Coast Guard. To make a difference, Coast Guard forces would have to be doubled. There is no way to do this within current budget constraints. An additional cutter could be supplied for symbolic purposes.

(6) Federal Courts. The Chief Judge of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida has authorized ten additional judges to come in in March. He has not agreed, however, to a general calendar system which would ease the burden on the U.S. Attorney's Office. Perhaps a White House figure could be helpful in persuading him on this latter point.

(7) Visit by the Vice President. The desirability of having the Vice President visit the area in connection with the work of the task force will be explored.

(8) Haitians. The Haitian refugees are not part of this problem and there should be no implication to the contrary. Those responsible for the local crime wave are some 5,000 of the Cubans who were not law abiding while in Cuba and have continued their activities in this country.

(9) Drug Agreements with Other Countries. State will step up its efforts to secure satisfactory agreements on paraquat spraying with countries which are major sources of the drugs entering this area.

(10) Customs Efforts. DEA is only prosecuting 18% of those seized for drug-related acts. This matter will be looked into.

(11) Representation on the Working Group. Agencies represented on the task force will notify Ken Cribb as to their representatives on the working group to chaired by Daniel Murphy.

NOTE: The working group will meet on Thursday, February 4, 1982 at 11:00 AM in the Roosevelt Room.

THCA

Kenneth Cribb, Jr.