

PRESS ADVISORY

April 16, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LATIN AMERICAN EXPERTS OUTLINE PRIORITIES FOR TRINIDAD SUMMIT

WASHINGTON—Eleven diplomats and scholars with many years of experience studying and working in Latin America outlined what they believe should be on the agenda for President Barack Obama and Hemispheric leaders meeting at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the issues they raise are the deepening worldwide economic crisis which already impacts the countries of the region, the chronic problems of poverty and corruption and the need for the United States to enact the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia.

Some of the respondents also mentioned growing tensions among various countries, the need to enhance human rights protection, to fight the narcotics traffic scourge and what to do and what to do about Cuba where a political dynasty insists on remaining in power after 50 years of military rule. They insist that the heads of state meeting in Port of Spain based their deliberations on Cuba on the need for Havana to respect the OAS Charter of the Americas as a condition to join the organization. Every member of the OAS is pledged to implement the Charter.

The following responded to a call for policy recommendations issued by the Center for a Free Cuba:

- **Ambassador Everett Briggs**, an American career foreign service officer who served as US Ambassador in Panama, Portugal, and other countries and at the National Security Council at the White House.
- **Ambassador James Cason**, a career US foreign service officer whose last post was Asunción, Paraguay and who served from 2003-2006 as Chief of the US Interests Section in Havana, Cuba.
- **Dr. Sergio Diaz-Briquets**, sociologist, population analyst, and author based in Alexandria, VA, USA
- **Dr. Mark Falcoff**, a noted author and policy analyst Latin Americanist and Resident Scholar Emeritus at American Enterprise Institute.
- **Roberto Gonzales-Echevarria**, scholar at Yale University and author of several books, Cuban-born.

- **Professor Irving Louis Horowitz**, Hannah Arendt Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Political Science at Rutgers University. He has published many books and articles on Latin American politics and society.
- **Ambassador Otto J. Reich**, former US Ambassador to Venezuela, has also served as Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America in the George W. Bush administration.
- **Ambassador Jose Sorzano**, born in Cuba and served as US Representative to the United Nations.
- **Dr. Jaime Suchlicki**, Professor of History and Director of the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami.
- **Professor Laura Y. Tartakoff**, Professor of Law at Case Western University Law School in Ohio. Tartakoff is the author of several books on Cuba.
- **Ian Vasquez**, CATO Institute, Washington, DC.

All of them can be reached by phone: 703-528-7953 or 202-463-8430 or by contacting The Center for a Free Cuba at freecuba@cubacenter.org.

