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Release Guantanamo

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The Guantanamo Military Base should be turned back to the Cubans—to a Free Cuban government, to be exact, complete with all military equipment and installations. Whether the transfer is done tomorrow or next year does not matter. Neither does it matter if, at this moment, no clear-cut Free Cuban government exists; in making its capital available, such a government can be formed.

The transfer of power over the base should take place gradually, with Cuban soldiers and civil officials moving in securely and systematically. Once in power, the Free Cuban government should be recognized as the legitimate government of Cuba. It should then be eligible to receive all supplies, ships, and equipment necessary to preserve its position and liberate the balance of the island. It can then freely and effectively organize an army and fleet.

The willing concession of this base by the United States Government will find a strong favorable response throughout the Americas. We should have done so two years ago. Following the liberation of Cuba, the Cuban government might

pledge to create at Guantanamo Bay a popular monument to liberty of the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, new hope and tangible aid may be granted the people of Cuba, in exile and at home, who seem to be forgotten in the public's relief over settling the missile question.

We should remember that only a negative defense has been accomplished in the latest crisis. America has yet to win a positive victory over Soviet communism.

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