# Pine Crest RR---Round 1

# 1NC

## 1NC—Round 1

### 1

#### Plan causes increased media access and open flows of communication in Cuba—causes Cuba collapse.

Pascaul, 2010 (Carlos, US Ambassador to Mexico, Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy @ the Brookings Institute “Learning to Salsa New Steps in U.S.-Cuba Relations” <http://www.brookings.edu/research/books/2010/learningtosalsa>)

Relations with the United States are at a historical nadir, but improving them is not a priority, Alarcón said. In fact, Cuba would be challenged to come up with a good strategy if the next U.S. administration were inclined to improve relations. Raúl should carefully weigh whether and to what degree Cuba should seek better relations with the Americans or respond to a new administration’s decision to permit increased travel to Cuba. Although Cuba ultimately stands to gain access to the U.S. market from a normal bilateral relationship, the potential costs in terms of open flows of communication and people could weaken the government’s control over its population. Weaker U.S. sanctions and a more cordial relationship would also make it harder to scapegoat the United States and would shift the onus for economic and political reform to the Cuban leadership. More critical to Cuba than improved relations with the United States is for it to strengthen its relations with the major developing nations, especially Russia, Mexico, and Brazil Speaking for all those present, Machado Ventura thanked Raúl for his confidence in them and assured him of their absolute loyalty. Raúl could be confident because it was highly unlikely that domestic or international conditions would threaten his hold on power, but in any case he should seek to establish his credibility as a leader on his own terms. One way to do so would be to reinforce the fusion of leadership at the highest levels of the Council of State, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and the Cuban Communist Party. As for the international community, Cuba could count on Venezuelan oil subsidies in the short term, and in the longer term would have access to substantial new energy reserves from offshore oil and gas and the production of sugarcane ethanol. Raúl should concentrate his international efforts on promoting and diversifying Cuba’s economic relationships. Raúl’s greatest challenge will be the rise in expectations for further reforms among the Cuban population, which could be worsened if the new U.S. administration decides to loosen restrictions on travel and remittances. More contact with relatives and friends will result in demands for better jobs and increased freedoms. Remittances are already creating disparities among Cubans with and without access to hard currency.. Since Cuba cannot move quickly or undertake broad reforms, it should attempt to limit expectations Raúl has been skillful in allowing some social reforms; additional reforms, however, should be undertaken cautiously and with the full support of the Party and the armed forces.

#### That destabilizes the Carribbean.

Gorrell, 2005 (Tim, Lieutenant Colonel, “CUBA: THE NEXT UNANTICIPATED ANTICIPATED STRATEGIC CRISIS?” 3/18, <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA433074>)

Regardless of the succession, under the current U.S. policy, Cuba’s problems of a post Castro transformation only worsen. In addition to Cubans on the island, there will be those in exile who will return claiming authority. And there are remnants of the dissident community within Cuba who will attempt to exercise similar authority. A power vacuum or absence of order will create the conditions for instability and civil war. Whether Raul or another successor from within the current government can hold power is debatable. However, that individual will nonetheless extend the current policies for an indefinite period, which will only compound the Cuban situation. When Cuba finally collapses anarchy is a strong possibility if the U.S. maintains the “wait and see” approach. The U.S. then must deal with an unstable country 90 miles off its coast. In the midst of this chaos, thousands will flee the island. During the Mariel boatlift in 1980 125,000 fled the island.26 Many were criminals; this time the number could be several hundred thousand fleeing to the U.S., creating a refugee crisis. Equally important, by adhering to a negative containment policy, the U.S. may be creating its next series of transnational criminal problems. Cuba is along the axis of the drug-trafficking flow into the U.S. from Columbia. The Castro government as a matter of policy does not support the drug trade. In fact, Cuba’s actions have shown that its stance on drugs is more than hollow rhetoric as indicated by its increasing seizure of drugs – 7.5 tons in 1995, 8.8 tons in 1999, and 13 tons in 2000.27 While there may be individuals within the government and outside who engage in drug trafficking and a percentage of drugs entering the U.S. may pass through Cuba, the Cuban government is not the path of least resistance for the flow of drugs. If there were no Cuban restraints, the flow of drugs to the U.S. could be greatly facilitated by a Cuba base of operation and accelerate considerably. In the midst of an unstable Cuba, the opportunity for radical fundamentalist groups to operate in the region increases. If these groups can export terrorist activity from Cuba to the U.S. or throughout the hemisphere then the war against this extremism gets more complicated. Such activity could increase direct attacks and disrupt the economies, threatening the stability of the fragile democracies that are budding throughout the region. In light of a failed state in the region, the U.S. may be forced to deploy military forces to Cuba, creating the conditions for another insurgency. The ramifications of this action could very well fuel greater anti-American sentiment throughout the Americas. A proactive policy now can mitigate these potential future problems. U.S. domestic political support is also turning against the current negative policy. The Cuban American population in the U.S. totals 1,241,685 or 3.5% of the population.28 Most of these exiles reside in Florida; their influence has been a factor in determining the margin of victory in the past two presidential elections. But this election strategy may be flawed, because recent polls of Cuban Americans reflect a decline for President Bush based on his policy crackdown. There is a clear softening in the Cuban-American community with regard to sanctions. Younger Cuban Americans do not necessarily subscribe to the hard-line approach. These changes signal an opportunity for a new approach to U.S.-Cuban relations.

#### Causes LNG attacks.

Anthony T. Bryan1 and Stephen E. Flynn2, 10-21-2001, director of the Caribbean program @ the North/South Center1, senior fellow @ the Council on Foreign Relations2, “Terrorism, Porous Borders, and Homeland Security: The Case for U.S.-Caribbean Cooperation,” http://www.cfr.org/publication/4844/terrorism\_porous\_borders\_and \_homeland\_ security.html

Terrorist acts can take place anywhere. The Caribbean is no exception. Already the linkages between drug trafficking and terrorism are clear in countries like Colombia and Peru, and such connections have similar potential in the Caribbean. The security of major industrial complexes in some Caribbean countries is vital. Petroleum refineries and major industrial estates in Trinidad, which host more than 100 companies that produce the majority of the world’s methanol, ammonium sulphate, and 40 percent of U.S. imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), are vulnerable targets. Unfortunately, as experience has shown in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, terrorists are likely to strike at U.S. and European interests in Caribbean countries. Security issues become even more critical when one considers the possible use of Caribbean countries by terrorists as bases from which to attack the United States. An airliner hijacked after departure from an airport in the northern Caribbean or the Bahamas can be flying over South Florida in less than an hour. Terrorists can sabotage or seize control of a cruise ship after the vessel leaves a Caribbean port. Moreover, terrorists with false passports and visas issued in the Caribbean may be able to move easily through passport controls in Canada or the United States. (To help counter this possibility, some countries have suspended "economic citizenship" programs to ensure that known terrorists have not been inadvertently granted such citizenship.) Again, Caribbean countries are as vulnerable as anywhere else to the clandestine manufacture and deployment of biological weapons within national borders.

#### Outweighs nuclear use.

Lovin and Lovin 1 Amory B. Lovin, Chief Scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute, and L. Hunter Lovin, President – National Capitalism and Co-Founder – Rocky Mountain Institute, “Brittle Power: Energy Strategy for National Security”, 2001, http://verdilivorno.it/doc\_gnl/198204\_Brittle\_Power\_intro\_GNL\_note.pdf

About nine percent of such a tankerload of LNG will probably, if spilled onto water, boil to gas in about five minutes. It does not matter how cold the water is; it will be at least two hundred twenty-eight Fahrenheit degrees hotter than the LNG, which it will therefore cause to boil violently.) The resulting gas, however, will be so cold that it will still be denser than air. It will therefore flow in a cloud or plume along the surface until it reaches an ignition source. Such a plume might extend at least three miles downwind from a large tanker spill within ten to twenty minutes.4 It might ultimately reach much farther—perhaps six to twelve miles.5 If not ignited, the gas is asphyxiating. If ignited, it will burn to completion with a turbulent diffusion flame reminiscent of the 1937 Hindenberg disaster but about a hundred times as big. Such a fireball would burn everything within it, and by its radiant heat would cause third-degree burns and start fires a mile or two away.6 An LNG fireball can blow through a city, creating “a very large number of ignitions and explosions across a wide area. No present or foreseeable equipment can put out a very large [LNG]... fire.”7 The energy content of a single standard LNG tanker (one hundred twenty-five thousand cubic meters) is equivalent to seven-tenths of a megaton of TNT, or about fifty-five Hiroshima bombs.

### 2

#### ‘Economic engagement’ must be quid pro quo.

Helweg 2k – International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (M. Diana Helweg, 2000, “Taking Sanctions into the Twenty-First Century,” Economic Strategy and National Security: a next generation approach, ed. Patrick DeSouza, p. 143-145)

To fill the policy vacuum left by the reduced use of sanctions, the United States should adhere to a policy of political and economic engagement that balances "sticks" such as sanctions and other restrictive measures with additional "carrots" of trade and aid. Only broader economic engagement can open up the relationship with a country and create the mutual economic and strategic benefits that will enable subsequent restrictive policies to encourage the targeted regime to change its undesirable behavior. / Stated most simply, engagement is the opposite of isolation. It includes the flow of ideas, goods, and money under the umbrella of official diplomatic relations. Engagement can be effected through strategic and political dialogue, investment, trade, and even joining forces on appropriate issues in multilateral fora. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the United States has pursued a policy of political and economic engagement with some previously isolated regimes through dialogue, investment, and support of free trade. In doing so, the United States has indirectly helped promote democracy, freedom of association, freedom of speech, and civil and human rights. To be sure, progress has occurred slowly and with differing degrees of success. Although difficult to measure, engagement with democracies provides the citizens of closed countries the opportunity to learn what types of political freedoms and economic successes are possible. The past decade is replete with instances of ordinary people using that education to try to change their political worlds from Eastern Europe to Latin America and from Africa to Asia. / Countries that have initiated trade and diplomatic relations with the United States have definitely benefited more than those that remain isolated from the United States. For example, compare the civil reforms that have accompanied economic reforms in the former Soviet Union that have been triggered by Western investment and trade, against those that have yet to occur in an isolated Cuba. The same dichotomy can be seen when comparing the improvements in quality of life in a virtually capitalist China thriving on foreign investment with an unstable, famine-stricken North Korea. This argument does not suggest that further significant reforms are still not needed in Russia and China, but there have been improvements over the last decade. One of the keys to the gradual improvements in the Chinese and Russian regimes has been the coupling of economic and political engagement with economic restrictions for behavior incompatible with international norms.

### 3

#### Silencing is active white privilege – upholds structures of whiteness

Carrie Crenshaw, Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech Communication, The University of Alabama, Summer 1997, “Resisting whiteness' rhetorical silence,” Western Journal of Communication 61.3, ebsco

Helms' silence about whiteness naturalized the taken-for-granted assumptions contained in his framework for understanding who is harmed by this decision. The "colossal unseen dimensions [of] the silences and denials surrounding" whiteness are key political tools for protecting white privilege and maintaining the myth of meritocracy (Mcintosh 35). This silence is rhetorical and has important ideological implications. Scott observes that silence and speaking have symbolic impact and as such are both rhetorical. When considering the dialectic of speaking and silence, he thinks of silence as the absence of speech. Silence is active, not passive; it may be interpreted. Furthermore, silence and speech may be both simultaneous and sequential. The absence of speech about whiteness signifies that it exists in our discursive silences. It may often be intentional; it can be interpreted, and it can occur simultaneously with the spoken word. Whiteness' silence is ideological because it signifies that to be white is the natural condition, the assumed norm. Scott notes that silences symbolize the nature of things--their substance or natural condition. Silences symbolize "hierarchical structures as surely as does speech" (15). Indeed, the very structure of privilege generates silences, and "ironically, the most powerful rhetoric for maintaining an existing scheme of privilege will be silent" (10). Thus, silent rhetorical constructions of whiteness like Helms' protect material white privilege because they mask its existence.

#### Opposing racism is the precondition to moral coherence.

Albert **Memmi, 2000**, Racism, p. 159-161

Evidently, I am a moderate optimist. The struggle against racism will be long and probably never totally successful. Humans [Vhomme] being what they are, one cannot for the moment hope for a total end to racist behavior. Even mixed marriage is not a remedy; the example of Brazil is hardly encouraging. There, rather than disappear, racism has created a more complex color hierarchy. In the Caribbean, social classes correspond to a scale of colors. It is as if racism can always find, in each case, the tactic or machination that will work.21 / But yet, humans being what they are, the job can and should be undertaken. People are both angels and beasts; the angel must be assisted in prevailing over the beast. Or, more prosaically, reciprocal dependence must be strengthened as the foundation of the social bond. Whatever the importance of a conflict between individuals or groups, the relative stability of social structures confirms a reciprocal need to engender an inclusive common law of life. Racism represents precisely the invecrse process, since it is a temptation to exclude and the legitimation of exclusion. / The pessimist will object that this is pure rhetoric designed to repackage the same old conduct. But even rhetorical effort is not wasted. Beyond its perversity, the racist discourse is a defense mechanism [plaidoyer] and an alibi. But every search for an alibi also contains within it an implicit recognition of the law. Racism is a structure of aggression that claims, and is given, a presupposed rationality. This pretense is the sign of its cunning and its false assertion of its own humanity. That is why no one wishes to own up to being racist; no one wishes to consent, in their heart, to renounce all humanity. The most hardened racists at least have one ear that hears, a port directly connected to that part of themselves that does not totally approve of iniquity and oppression. The mania and the horror of Nazism comes from what it had renounced of all legitimization, that it had made racism a philosophy if not a total conception of humanity. / Is that all there is? The infinite task before us can be discouraging in that it must always be begun again. Up to now, all peace has only been a truce between two wars, yet still we hope and long for peace. Health is fragile, and death is always in the offing, yet still we struggle to keep ourselves in good health. The struggle against racism is the condition of our collective social health. It encompasses the fundamental moral discussions of love or hate of the other, of justice or injustice, equality or oppression, or, in a word, one's very humanity. The essence of morality is respect for the other. Our honor as humans will be to construct a more human world. In the meanwhile, so that even animals may some day find a world of peace and security, let us act so that no one is any longer treated like a beast.

### 4

#### Normalizing economic relations causes US domination of Cuba’s rice market.

Jamel Jackson, 10-21-2011, associate editor, USA Rice Federation, non-profit organization, global advocate for the U.S. rice industry, “USA Rice President and CEO Betsy Ward Highlights Embargo Impacts on U.S. and Cuba,”http://ww.usarice.com/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1616&itemid=328

Ward underscored how opening agricultural trade between the U.S. and Cuba would benefit both countries. "Under normal commercial relations we believe that Cuba could become, overnight, the **largest market** for U.S. grown rice in the world," Ward said. "The lifting of sanctions will generate jobs in rural America and it would enable Cuba to buy high quality rice from a nearby supplier, reducing shipping time, storage and transportation costs." Prior to the 1962 embargo, Cuba was the top export destination for U.S.-grown rice. In 2000, Congress passed legislation that permitted U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba and rice sales to the island nation totaled 635,000 MT between 2002 and 2006. However, this legislation codified restrictions on other commercial activities and maintained existing U.S. restrictions on imports from Cuba. A rule tightening in 2005 crippled U.S. exports to Cuba and there have been no U.S. rice sales since 2008. Cubans consume nearly 1 million metric tons of rice annually, which is among the highest consumption rates in the Americas. Sixty percent of the rice consumed in Cuba is imported from other countries.

#### Cuba is a key rice market for Vietnam—but the US would crowd them out.

Chantal Pohl Nielsen, 10-24-2004, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics, “Vietnam’s Rice Policy: Recent Reforms and Future Opportunities,” <https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/download/1080.pdf>

The explanation behind the observation that the United States, Pakistan and Thailand seem able to capture large shares of the value of world rice trade is a reflection of several issues. These countries have a much longer experience in international rice trade than e.g. Vietnam, and have therefore established a reputation of stable and good quality supplies. Recurring issues in the description of the challenges facing Vietnamese rice exports are precisely unreliable supplies and (a reputation of) low quality.2 Clearly these are issues of which Vietnamese officials are well aware and efforts are being made to improve the quality of rice destined for exports. Given that around 20% of Vietnamese rice production is now sold in foreign markets (Nielsen 2002) and that rice exports in recent years have been the second or third largest generator of foreign exchange to the country, increasing the value of rice exports must definitely be a clear priority. Vietnam’s major export markets within the region are Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (Table 1). Sales to Iraq, Iran and Cuba are also important to Vietnamese rice exports. Iraq is a demander of high-quality long grain rice and Vietnam is the main supplier to this country. Cuba is a demander of low-quality long grain rice, and here Vietnam and China are the main suppliers. Former political ties to Eastern Europe are also evident in the structure of Vietnamese exports. Sales to the EU account for only a very small share of total Vietnamese rice exports.

#### Rice exports are key to the Vietnamese economy.

Kenneth B. Young et al, 4-xx-2002, with Eric J. Wailes, Gail L. Cramer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Arkansas; Nguyen Tri Khiem, Can Tho University, “Vietnam’s Rice Economy: Developments and Prospects,” arkansasagnews.uark.edu/968.pdf

Vietnam’s food crop sector, comprising more than 85% rice, is most important sector of the economy. The food sector contributed about 70% of the total agricultural GDP from 1989-95 (Khiem et al., 1996). More than 70% of the rural population depends on food production for their primary source of income. On the average, the value of gross agricultural output - including animal and fishery products - contributes 49% of GDP and 42% of current export earnings. Rice alone contributed half of all employment and one sixth of national income in 1990 and about 25% of the total export value from 1994 to 1996.

#### Vietnamese economic collapse collapses ASEAN.

Roger Mitton, 12-13-2010, writer for the Phnom Penh Post, “Economic reform vital for teetering Vietnam,” <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/columns/economic-reform-vital-teetering-vietnam>

Now we have Vietnam, where the warnings of impending catastrophe grow ever louder. Last week, Stewart Newnham, an Asian currency strategist at Morgan Stanley, told a conference in Ho Chi Minh City that due to the weak economy and deteriorating balance of payments deficit Vietnam’s dong was in “extreme trouble”. Its previous devaluation in August occurred amid fears that increased imports might cause Vietnam to fall short of capital to fund the burgeoning trade deficit, now running at US$10.66 billion. Newnham’s warning came two days after the International Monetary Fund cautioned that Vietnam’s reserves were at dangerously “low” levels and covered less than two months of imports. Tomorrow, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi will discuss “The Future of the Vietnam Dong” and members will mull whether the currency will be devalued for a third time this year and how long the foreign reserves might last. Make no mistake, it is serious. Not only for Vietnam, but for neighbours like Cambodia and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. If Vietnam’s economy crashes, the waves will wash over the region and threaten ASEAN, just as the banking crises in Greece and Ireland financially rocked the European Union. And despite the largesse of the Asian Development Bank, which will announce tomorrow a multi-billion rescue package for Vietnam, a more radical and lasting solution is needed. Thankfully several brave voices in Vietnam itself have already identified the essential and inter-related steps that need to be taken. The first is that the hierarchy of the ruling communist regime must be revamped. By great good fortune that will happen next month at the party’s five-yearly congress when all senior members will face re-election. Of the VCP’s topmost troika, it is already known that the doddery party boss Nong Duc Manh and the nice but ineffective President Nguyen Minh Triet will step down. What now seems likely, and it is real bombshell in the context of Vietnamese politics, is that Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung will be forced out. Recently humiliated in the National Assembly where he faced a no-confidence motion, Dung had to apologise for the way Vinashin, the state-owned shipbuilding group, ran up debts of US$4.4 billion when helmed by one of his lackeys. Dung’s probable replacement will be Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung, hardly a pocket dynamo but at least someone who understands economics. He will need that understanding in spades, because Vietnam’s other urgent need is for a second doi moi, or economic reformation. It will have to be just as revolutionary as the first doi moi in 1986, which partially opened the country to free-market practices, and “A second doi moi!” is the new clarion call now heard all over Vietnam these days. Unless that call is heeded soon, Vietnam’s leaders risk facing the same fate as their counterparts did in Romania, Poland and East Germany not so long ago.

#### ASEAN solves multiple nuclear conflicts.

PDFA, 1-xx-2003, Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, executive department of the Philippine government tasked to contribute to the enhancement of national security and the protection of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty, to participate in the national endeavor of sustaining development and enhancing the Philippines' competitive edge, to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas and to mobilize them as partners in national development, to project a positive image of the Philippines, and to increase international understanding of Philippine culture for mutually-beneficial relations with other countries, Press Release No. 036, “ASEAN: Focal Point for Asia-Pacific Cooperation,” http://www.dfa.gov.ph/news/pr/pr2003/jan/pr036.htm

ASEAN is in a unique position to lead cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region and between the Asia-Pacific and other regions of the world. This was the message conveyed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople to the gathered ministers of ASEAN and the European Union. Secretary Ople made this assertion when he lead the discussions on Agenda Item 5(c) : International Issues - Developments in the Asia Pacific, including the Korean Peninsula, during the 14th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels which was held on 27-28 January 2003. In his statement (copy attached) during the meeting, he pointed out that some of the top flashpoints in the world are to be found in the Asia-Pacific, which he said were : the tensions in Korean peninsula, the Taiwan straits, the South China Sea and South Asia -- all of which, according to Secretary Ople, all pre-date our preoccupation with terrorism and all have a decidedly nuclear dimension. “In all this, ASEAN finds itself not only in the geographic heart of the Asia-Pacific, but also at its political core and center. Unlike other continents, the Asia-Pacific has not gone far in terms of integration. There is no organization of Asian states or Asian unity or an Asian union. What we do have is the ASEAN. ASEAN brings together not only the states in the region but also those outside. Our Post-Ministerial process and our ASEAN Regional Forum or ARF provide unique opportunities found nowhere else. And until the Asia-Pacific reaches the level of integration seen in other parts of the world, ASEAN, that organization of ten Southeast Asian states, will have to do” Secretary Ople said in his statement. Secretary Ople said that ASEAN has succeeded in helping diffuse tensions in the South China Sea and that the ASEAN Regional Forum provides a venue through which security issues throughout the Asia-Pacific can be discussed.

### 5

#### [CP TEXT: The United States federal government ought to offer to create normal trade relations with the Republic of Cuba if, and only if, the governments of Brazil, Chile and Mexico agree to commit to actively seeking a naturalization process between the United States and Cuba, and to compelling the Cuban government to work towards establishing representative democracy and better respect for human rights.]

#### Conditioning economic ties on Brazilian, Chilean and Mexican commitment to Cuban democratization solves the case – the plan’s unconditional end to the embargo kills Latin American democracy.

Jorge G. Castañeda, 4-21-2009, professor at New York University and fellow at the New America Foundation, was Mexico's foreign minister from 2000 to 2003, “The Right Deal on Cuba,” <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124027198023237151.html>

The question of what to do about the embargo has once again cornered an American president. If President Barack Obama lifts the embargo unilaterally, he will send a message to the Castros and the rest of Latin America that human rights and democracy are not his bailiwick. Furthermore, he lacks the votes in the Senate to do so, unless he obtains an explicit Cuban quid pro quo, which Raúl Castro cannot grant him, especially with his brother back in charge. Conversely, if Mr. Obama limits change to the recently announced freer flow of remittances and family visits to the island, Democrats in the House, Latin American leaders, and the Castros will remain unsatisfied. And if he insists on political change as a precondition for lifting the embargo, Mr. Obama would be pursuing the policy that his last 10 predecessors have fruitlessly followed. There might be a way to square the circle. It begins with a unilateral end to the embargo: Nothing is expected from Cuba. But in exchange for eliminating the embargo, key Latin American players would be expected to commit to actively seeking a normalization process between Washington and Havana, and to forcing Cuba to establish representative democracy and respect for human rights. As democrats who experienced authoritarian rule and sought international support in their struggle against it, leaders like Brazilian President Lula da Silva, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, and Mexican President Felipe Calderón have been incredibly cynical and irresponsible about Cuba. Mr. Calderón and Ms. Bachelet have forsaken their commitment to democracy and human rights in order to accommodate the left wing. Mr. da Silva, despite having been jailed by the military dictatorship in the early 1980s, has pursued the traditional Brazilian policy of avoiding controversy. By nudging the Latin leaders toward a principled stance, Mr. Obama would turn the tables. This policy would give the Cubans what they say they want: an unconditional end to the embargo, the beginning of a negotiation process, and perhaps even access to international financial institutions' funds. The Latin American leaders would get a major concession from the new administration on a highly symbolic issue. And human-rights defenders in Latin America and elsewhere would see their concerns regarding free elections, freedom of the press, freedom of association, and the liberation of political prisoners addressed as a demand from Cuba's friends -- not as an imposition from Washington. Mr. Obama would look great, since U.S. policy would shift in exchange for Latin leaders' dedication to principles like democracy and human rights that he and they espouse. A clear commitment from Latin leaders to a normalization that would not follow the Vietnamese course (economic reform with no political change) would be a major foreign policy victory for Mr. Obama.

#### Latin America-led push for hemispheric democracy is critical for global democracy – Cuba’s a key starting point.

Carl Gershman, 10-12-2012, President, the National Endowment for Democracy, Address in the Congress of the Republic of Peru, “Latin America and the Worldwide Movement for Democracy,” <http://www.ned.org/about/board/meet-our-president/archived-presentations-and-articles/latin-america-and-the-worldwide-m>

I believe that the defense of democracy in Latin America must come from within. It needs the effective support of the United States, of course. But the lead must come from within Latin America, and for that there must be a clear and consistent Latin American voice for the defense of democracy in the hemisphere. Peru can be that voice, and it can help mobilize others in Latin America to defend and support democracy. It has the legitimacy to do this, and it has the experience, given its own long struggle for democracy, especially its effort to achieve political and economic inclusion of the poor and it success in achieving reconciliation after violent conflict. So let us build a new partnership for democracy in the hemisphere, a partnership of democracies. In holding its Seventh Assembly in Peru, the World Movement for Democracy is making a statement that what happens in Peru is important for democracy in Latin America, and that the steady but uncertain democratic progress in Latin America has important meaning for the future of democracy in the world. The struggles for democracy that have occurred in this hemisphere were not isolated events. They were, as Professor Huntington said, part of a global wave, drawing influence from earlier democratic struggles and from developments in other regions, and in turn influencing events taking place elsewhere and at a later time. Moreover, this process was not just the unfolding of objective forces but involved real people with ideas, aspirations, and a sense of their own dignity. While assuming responsibility for their own fate, they also asked for and expected the solidarity of others in their own country and beyond, especially those fortunate enough to enjoy the benefits of human freedom. Peru can and, I think, should give that kind of solidarity. It can give it to the troubled countries of Central America, as well as to people who are fighting for democracy in Cuba and Venezuela and in the neighboring countries of Ecuador and Bolivia.

#### Democracy solves extinction.

Larry Diamond, 1995, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, December 1995, Promoting Democracy in the 1990s, http://wwics.si.edu/subsites/ccpdc/pubs/di/1.htm

OTHER THREATS This hardly exhausts the lists of threats to our security and well-being in the coming years and decades. In the former Yugoslavia nationalist aggression tears at the stability of Europe and could easily spread. The flow of illegal drugs intensifies through increasingly powerful international crime syndicates that have made common cause with authoritarian regimes and have utterly corrupted the institutions of tenuous, democratic ones. Nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons continue to proliferate. The very source of life on Earth, the global ecosystem, appears increasingly endangered. Most of these new and unconventional threats to security are associated with or aggravated by the weakness or absence of democracy, with its provisions for legality, accountability, popular sovereignty, and openness. LESSONS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY The experience of this century offers important lessons. Countries that govern themselves in a truly democratic fashion do not go to war with one another. They do not aggress against their neighbors to aggrandize themselves or glorify their leaders. Democratic governments do not ethnically "cleanse" their own populations, and they are much less likely to face ethnic insurgency. Democracies do not sponsor terrorism against one another. They do not build weapons of mass destruction to use on or to threaten one another. Democratic countries form more reliable, open, and enduring trading partnerships. In the long run they offer better and more stable climates for investment. They are more environmentally responsible because they must answer to their own citizens, who organize to protest the destruction of their environments. They are better bets to honor international treaties since they value legal obligations and because their openness makes it much more difficult to breach agreements in secret. Precisely because, within their own borders, they respect competition, civil liberties, property rights, and the rule of law, democracies are the only reliable foundation on which a new world order of international security and prosperity can be built.

### 6

#### [CP TEXT: The United States federal government should---

#### ---substantially increase its support for organic farming and organoponics development and export in the United States

#### ---loosen its restrictions on travel to the Republic of Cuba, and

#### ---propose to the Organization of American states a multilateral effort to lower hemispheric greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation via transnational cooperation.]

#### Supporting organic farming solves sustainable agriculture

**LaSalle and Hepperly 08** (Tim, PhD and CEO of Rodale Institute, and Paul, PhD and Director of Research and Fulbright Scholar at Rodale Institute, Rodale Institute is gives Details of research of sustainable farming practices, ‘Regenerative Organic Farming: A Solution to Global Warming’, <http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/files/Rodale_Research_Paper-07_30_08.pdf>, Accessed on 11-30-11//AXU)

Compared to expensive, experimental, high-technology projects, global transition to biologically based farming can be achieved without new technology or expensive investment. Changing the emphasis from commodity to carbon will profoundly affect the economic drivers at the farm level. Farmers will creatively adapt to this economic prescription and shift to ecologically sound agricultural practices as they fulfill consumer demand, supported by a practical policy that makes a transition to these practices economically feasible. With a problem so dire, a need so urgent, and a solution so available, the path to responsible terrestrial stewardship is clear. And because the practices of 21st Century regenerative organic agriculture are scalable globally, it’s a solution that can be adapted all over the world.

#### Lifting travel restrictions solves US leadership; their author and card they read

Colvin, 2008 (Jake, fellow with the New Ideas Fund, a group that seeks new approaches and paradigms for U.S. national security and foreign policy. He is also Vice President for Global Trade Issues at the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) and oversees the Cuba initiative of USA\*Engage, “The Case for a New Cuba Policy”, 12/23/2008, http://web.archive.org/web/20120904201743/http://www.newideasfund.org/proposals/Colvin%20-%20Cuba%20-%20Master.pdf)

A signal to the world Beyond the domestic political benefit of acknowledging a changing Cuban American community, a new approach to Cuba would send an important signal to the world. While complex foreign policy issues from Darfur to Iraq will take years to resolve in cooperation with the international community, with respect to Cuba it would be relatively easy to demonstrate clear, progressive change immediately through a simple Federal Register notice and a new diplomatic approach. Even small changes to policy and rhetoric would send a strong message to U.S. allies, particularly in Europe and the Western Hemisphere, who will be looking for early signs from the next administration. The United States‘ reputation in the world has slid dramatically over the past eight years. Large majorities in key allies such as Canada (77 percent), France (75 percent), Mexico (66 percent), and the United Kingdom (67 percent) say that their opinion of the United States has gotten worse since the start of the Bush presidency. Less than one-half of respondents in Canada and the United Kingdom think that the relationship with the United States is a friendship.40 A troubling number think that Bush and the U.S. presence in Iraq are greater threats to world peace than Kim Jong-Il and the Iranian nuclear program, and view Beijing more favorably than Washington.41 In order for the United States to improve its image in the world, the next president will have to offer new policies that demonstrate a commitment to working with allies and a pragmatic, engagement-oriented approach to foreign policy challenges. Cuba policy offers this opportunity. Embargo politics have kept the United States from pursuing easily attainable changes to policy. With the stroke of a pen, the next president could unilaterally demonstrate that he is willing to try a different approach by allowing greater freedom of travel for U.S. citizens to Cuba. A diplomatic approach to Cuba would signal that the president is willing to pursue peaceful solutions to difficult problems, even if those initial efforts do not bear fruit immediately. Multilaterally, overtures to U.S. allies to promote rule of law, economic development, and human rights in Cuba would be a welcome change from the unproductive criticism that has become the hallmark of recent U.S. policy. Compared with difficult challenges such as stabilizing Afghanistan or containing Iran, Cuba is an easy place to showcase change. ―The next administration needs to have an early win,‖ says former Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Peter Romero. 42 Romero, who was a key player in the Clinton administration‘s second-term efforts to increase people-topeople exchanges, adds, ―We‘ve been on a losing streak for so long, something that breaks the paradigm and shows bold strokes would have an enormous impact. I think you can do that with Cuba.‖

#### OAS cooperation solves Latin America relations.

Erickson 10 (Daniel P. Erikson, associate for US policy¶ and director of Caribbean programs at the Inter-American¶ Dialogue, taught Latin American politics at Johns Hopkins-SAIS, is¶ frequently interviewed in US and international media, and has¶ testified before the US Congress, his past positions include¶ research associate at Harvard Business School and Fulbright¶ scholar in US-Mexican business relations, he is also a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, “The Obama Administration and Latin America: Towards a New Partnership?” Working Paper No. 46, The Centre for International Governance Innovation, April 2010, pg. 27, http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/Working\_Paper%2046.pdf

Although the early hopes for momentous change have¶ begun to dissipate, the presidency of Barack Obama still has¶ the potential to bring about an important restructuring of inter-¶ American relations. In retrospect, the initial warm glow of good¶ feelings was always destined to give way to a more pragmatic¶ understanding on both sides of the relationship regarding the¶ possibilities and limits of what the US and Latin America can¶ expect of each other. But throughout the Americas, the desire¶ remains that Barack Obama will be attentive and respectful to¶ the region’s concerns. The 44th president of the United States¶ has already pledged to keep an open mind and demonstrate a¶ willingness to listen. The next step is to advance the strategy¶ of substantive, issue-oriented engagement that can sustain the¶ goodwill that so much of the hemisphere felt upon his election¶ to the White House.

### Ag

#### Plan revives Cuban cigar industry

Thomas Mulier, 2-24-2008, writer for Bloomberg News, “Cuban cigar prices may double when US Embargo is lifted,” <http://havanajournal.com/forums/viewthread/805/>

Premium Cuban cigars would jump in price if the US were to end an embargo on trade with the island nation and permit their sale in its cigar market, the world’s largest, according to Swedish Match AB. Demand for Cuban cigars might double overnight if the ban were lifted, a step Swedish Match managers view as “inevitable,” Chief Financial Officer Lars Dahlgren said on Wednesday. The Stockholm-based owner of the Macanudo brand has drawn up plans to prepare, he said in a telephone interview. Speculation about an end to the ban arose on Tuesday as Fidel Castro resigned as Cuba’s president after 49 years, though the US State Department said no policy changes are imminent. American smokers buy two-thirds of the world’s premium cigars, according to Swedish Match, the industry’s second-largest member, which has contested ownership of the Cohiba brand with Cuba’s government. “There’s no way you can serve Europe and the US if Cuban cigars became big in the US,” said Dahlgren, who declined to say when the ban might be lifted. “If consumers would demand the same quality of cigars, prices would skyrocket.” The entire industry eventually would benefit from an end to the embargo, which would create more interest inx smoking cigars, according to Dahlgren. The ban, which was imposed in 1962 by John F. Kennedy and tightened by later US presidents, has sparked a dispute between Swedish Match and Cuba’s government over the rights to the Cohiba brand. It also was the cause of a legal battle between Bacardi Ltd. and Pernod Ricard SA for the Havana Club rum trademark. Cigars sold now under the Cohiba name in the US are made in the Dominican Republic. Cuban-made Cohibas are sold outside the US by Corporacion Habanos, a partnership between the Caribbean nation’s government and Madrid-based Altadis SA. Handmade Cohiba Corona Especial cigars from the Dominican Republic cost about $7 each on the website of Burlington, North Carolina-based JRCigars.com, which bills itself as the world’s biggest cigar store. A Cuban Cohiba costs 23.40 Swiss francs ($21) at the Davidoff cigar shop in Geneva. Altadis has been taken over by Imperial Tobacco Group Plc, the Bristol, England-based maker of John Player Special cigarettes. Imperial might get a boost of as much as 2 percent to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization if the US were to end the embargo, said Jonathan Fell, an analyst at Deutsche Bank AG in London. “We are prepared for this to happen sometime,” Dahlgren said of a lifting of the ban. “The US is our most important premium cigar market. If the US consumer wants Cuban cigars, we will seek to share that segment of the market.” Swedish Match may lose market share initially if the ban were ended and Cuba kept its monopoly on production, he said. In addition to its own brands such as Garcia y Vega, the company owns Cuban heritage trademarks including Partagas and Hoyo de Monterrey that were bought from exiles. “The first few weeks we wouldn’t sell a single cigar because everyone would be buying the forbidden fruit,” the CFO said.

#### Causes mass deforestation—kills the Cuban environment which is a biodiversity hotspot.

Robert Brian Frankenberry, 12-xx-2003, Trade Environment Database Case Studies, The Mandala Projects, “Cuban Cigars, Trade, Intellectual Property and Culture,” <http://www1.american.edu/ted/cigar-trade.htm>

ENVIRONMENT: The unique composition of the soil, with Cuba's warm tropical climate that is tempered by trades winds makes for a very unique and hospitable environment for tobacco plants. HARVEST: The process begins with preparing the beds and laying the seeds. Then, to increase the vitality of the plants, they are topped and the suckers are removed. After 2 1/3 to 3 months the plants reach maturity and are harvested leaf by leaf. CURING: First, the leaves are strung together with a cotton string and hung out to dry for a few months. After the leaves are cured they go through a series of fermentation steps and graded and separated according to size, shape and quality. The leaves are then arranged according to measurements and thickness to match the type of cigar. Then, the tobacco is ready to be rolled. ROLLING: Cigar rolling requires expertise and care. The tools used to roll cigars have remained the same for generations. They consist of a small wooden board, along with a semi-circular blade, and a small container of clear purified rubber resin used to shape and seal off the ends of the cigar. The cigar that is rolled has to be perfect. The perfect cigar is neither too tight nor too flabby and loose. A cigar that is rolled too tight or too loose will ruin the flavor and effect the burn of the cigar. A roller begins as an apprentice sweeping the floor of the factory and learning the art of hand rolling the perfect cigar from the master rollers. The taste and burn of the cigar varies according to the roller. Master cigar rollers are able to produce an average of 10 cigars an hour. Please click on the image below for a step by step tutorial of the rolling process. PACKAGING: Cigars are then packaged and nailed shut in intricately designed Spanish cedar boxes. Due to counterfeit cigars being sold on the black market, cigars produced in the factories are packaged in boxes with official state seals and sold with official receipts. 3. Related Cases CUBA: Helms-Burton Cuba Bacardi Tequila Cubamusic Cubanuke Cubamine INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Feta Parmesan Basmati Biodiv Grappa Budweis Pisco Scotch Mexbrew Canola Hiatiart 4. Author and Date: Robert Brian Frankenberry. December 2003 II. Legal Clusters 5. Discourse and Status: The legal disputes over Cuban cigars surprisingly centers on only two brands: Cohiba and Trinidad. Culbro corporation, an American company, registered its "Cohiba" cigars with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 1978 and assigned the subsequent registration to another American company, General Cigar. In 1997 the Cuban government petitioned the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in protest of naming rights and the almost identical trademark. According to the (WTO TRIPS agreement), the trademark can fall under protest in three areas. Firstly, is the name "Cohiba" under which Cuba claims to have produced its top of the line cigars since 1960. Cuba claims that "Cohiba" is a "famous name" and under international law, "should not be appropriated by a producer in another country." Secondly, the trademark or logo that wraps the cigar. The wrapping logo is very similar on both the American and the Cuban brand. The only distinguishing detail on the wrapper is the red color band for the American cigar and the yellow band for the Cuban. Thirdly, the American brand is sold under the advertisement of being "Cuban style" and made with "Cuban seed". According to Cuba, this is a blatant attempt to steal the "intellectual property" and confuse the consumer. In October of 1998, two Florida Senators introduced the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act into law. Section 211 of this act prohibits Cuban companies from registering "confiscated" trademarks in the US without permission of the original owner. US courts are also prohibited from recognizing any such trademark rights. This is an attempt to outmaneuver both Cuba and the WTO to lay claim that the original owners of the trademarks were the families that fled Cuba before 1960. The EU has formally backed Cuba on questioning the legality of the OCES Act and requested the WTO take the matter to its Dispute Settlement Body. The WTO has since found Section 211 to be out of bounds according to TRIPS and requested the U.S. correct its legislation accordingly. The EU position is that Section 211 "violates several portions or provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights" (Shapiro, Perry, Woods 2000). US representatives reject the EU stance, stating that Section 211 is in accordance with TRIPS. Several meetings have been held regarding this, with no conclusion to date. It is currently pending review by the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO. The other brand, Trinidad, is also in a legal dispute. Cuba was granted the registered brand name, TTT Trinidad, La Habana, Cuba by the USPTO in 1996. However, in 1997, the Trinidad family petitioned the USPTO for cancellation. There is no resolution yet, in the meantime, the Trinidad family is selling cigars with the TTT Trinidad name. 6. Forum and Scope: WTO and Multilateral 7. Decision Breadth: Cuba, US and European Union 8. Legal Standing: The WTO has found sec 211 of the OCES Act to be out of line with the TRIPS agreement and requested the US to amend it. That is where it lies today as the Cuban brands are still not recognized and the General Cigar brands are being sold. Nov 4, 2003, for the 12th year in a row, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly 179-3 (2 abstentions) to remove the US Embargoes on the country of Cuba. If the Sanctions are removed and Cuban products are recognized, the WTO would most likely hear arguments from all companies claiming ownership of the brand names and the dates of their patents. III. Geographic Clusters 9. Geographic Locations a. Geographic Domain: North America b. Geographic Site: Southern North America c. Geographic Impact: Cuba 10. Sub-National Factors: No 11. Type of Habitat: Tropical.The unique composition of the soil, with Cuba's warm tropical climate that is tempered by trades winds makes for a very unique and hospitable environment for tobacco plants. IV. Trade Clusters 12. Type of Measure: Intellectual Property 13. Direct v. Indirect Impacts: Direct 14. Relation of Trade Measure to Environmental Impact a. Directly Related to Product: Yes, Cigar b. Indirectly Related to Product: Yes, Tobacco c. Not Related to Product: No d. Related to Process: Yes, Intellectual Property 15. Trade Product Identification: Cigars, Tobacco 16. Economic Data US Cigar Sales Data From 1996 to 1997 the US experienced a boom in cigar sales. Although numbers may not be as high today, as the "cigar fad" may have died off some, cigar sales are still a multi million dollar industry in the US. These numbers bring to light the magnitude of profits made off "Cuban style" cigars in the US. A box of Cuban cigars can be purchased anywhere from $300 - $1000 (not counting black market prices). Cigar Sales in the US Year per cigar sold $sales$ 1996 3.8 billion 613 million 1997 4.4 billion 876 million Cuban Tobacco exports to North America (Canada - per cigar) Year # of cigars 2000 5.6 million 2001 5.7 million 2002 5.5 million 2003-Jun 2.1 million Here is a list of Cuban brand cigars that are sold in the US by non Cuban companies. Source: Cigar Aficionado, July 20, 1998. \* Denotes cigar brands not currently made by Cuba. Brand Name US Rights Owned by Country made in Belinda\* General Cigar Honduras Bolivar General Cigar Dominican Rep. Cabanas\* Consolidated Cigar United States Cifuentes General Cigar Jamaica Cohiba General Cigar Dominican Rep. El Rey del Mundo General Cigar Honduras Fonseca MATASA Dominican Rep. Gispert Tabacalera SA Honduras H. Upmann Consolidated Cigar Dominican Rep. Henry Clay Consolidated Cigar Dominican Rep. Hoyo de Monterrey General Cigar Honduras La Gloria El Credito Dominican Rep. Montecristo Consolidated Cigar Dominican Rep. Partagas General Cigar Dominican Rep. Por Larrañaga Consolidated Cigar Dominican Rep. Punch General Cigar Honduras Ramon General Cigar Dominican Rep. Romeo y Julieta Tabacalera SA Dominican Rep. Saint Luis Rey Tabacalera SA Honduras Santa Damiana\* Consolidated Cigar Dominican Rep 17. Impact of Trade Restriction: Ban 18. Industry Sector: Manufacture 19. Exporters and Importers: Cuba and the US V. Environment Clusters 20. Environmental Problem Type: Deforestation 21. Name, Type, and Diversity of Species Name: Nicotiana tabacum, Nicotiana rustica Type: Tobacco plant Diversity: 2 types 22. Resource Impact and Effect: Deforestation. Although deforestation in Cuba seems to be more of a result from construction rather than the planting or sewing of tobacco fields.

#### Agribusinesses turn—the plan causes Cuban farming to be flooded by US companies—destroys their organic agriculture model.

Gonzalez ‘03 (Carmen G. Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, Seattle University School of Law, Summer 2003, SEASONS OF RESISTANCE: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN CUBA, p. 729-33)

Notwithstanding these problems, the greatest challenge to the agricultural development strategy adopted by the Cuban government in the aftermath of the Special Period is likely to be external – the renewal of trade relations with the United States. From the colonial era through the beginning of the Special Period, economic development in Cuba has been constrained by Cuba’s relationship with a series of primary trading partners. Cuba’s export-oriented sugar monoculture and its reliance on imports to satisfy domestic food needs was imposed by the Spanish colonizers, reinforced by the United States, and maintained during the Soviet era. It was not until the collapse of the socialist trading bloc and the strengthening of the U.S. embargo that Cuba was able to embark upon a radically different development path. Cuba was able to transform its agricultural development model as a consequence of the political and economic autonomy occasioned by its relative economic isolation, including its exclusion from major international financial and trade institutions. Paradoxically, while the U.S. embargo subjected Cuba to immense economic hardship, it also gave the Cuban government free rein to adopt agricultural policies that ran counter to the prevailing neoliberal model and that protected Cuban farmers against ruinous competition from highly subsidized agricultural producers in the United States and the European Union. Due to U.S. pressure, Cuba was excluded from regional and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.n413 Cuba also failed to reach full membership in any regional trade association and was barred from the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). However, as U.S. agribusiness clamors to ease trade restrictions with Cuba, the lifting of the embargo and the end of Cuba’s economic isolation may only be a matter of time. It is unclear how the Cuban government will respond to the immense political and economic pressure from the United States to enter into bilateral or multilateral trade agreements that would curtail Cuban sovereignty and erode protection for Cuban agriculture.n416 If Cuba accedes to the dictates of agricultural trade liberalization, it appears likely that Cuba’s gains in agricultural diversification and food self-sufficiency will be undercut by cheap, subsidized food imports from the United States and other industrialized countries. Furthermore, Cuba’s experiment with organic and semi-organic agriculture may be jeopardized if the Cuban government is either unwilling or unable to restrict the sale of agrochemicals to Cuban farmers – as the Cuban government failed to restrict U.S. rice imports in the first half of the twentieth century. Cuba is once again at a crossroads – as it was in 1963, when the government abandoned economic diversification, renewed its emphasis on sugar production, and replaced its trade dependence on the United States with trade dependence on the socialist bloc. In the end, the future of Cuban agriculture will likely turn on a combination of external factors (such as world market prices for Cuban exports and Cuba’s future economic integration with the United States) and internal factors (such as the level of grassroots and governmental support for the alternative development model developed during the Special Period). While this Article has examined the major pieces of legislation that transformed agricultural production in Cuba, and the government’s implementation of these laws, it is important to remember that these reforms had their genesis in the economic crisis of the early 1990s and in the creative legal, and extra-legal, survival strategies developed by ordinary Cubans. The distribution of land to thousands of small producers and the promotion of urban agriculture were in response to the self-help measures undertaken by Cuban citizens during the Special Period. As the economic crisis intensified, Cuban citizens spontaneously seized and cultivated parcels of land in state farms, along the highways, and in vacant lots, and started growing food in patios, balconies, front yards, and community gardens. Similarly, the opening of the agricultural markets was in direct response to the booming black market and its deleterious effect on the state’s food distribution system. Finally, it was the small private farmer, the neglected stepchild of the Revolution, who kept alive the traditional agroecological techniques that formed the basis of Cuba’s experiment with organic agriculture. The survival of Cuba’s alternative agricultural model will therefore depend, at least in part, on whether this model is viewed by Cuban citizens and by the Cuban leadership as a necessary adaptation to severe economic crisis or as a path-breaking achievement worthy of pride and emulation. The history of Cuban agriculture has been one of resistance and accommodation to larger economic and political forces that shaped the destiny of the island nation. Likewise, the transformation of Cuban agriculture has occurred through resistance and accommodation by Cuban workers and farmers to the hardships of the Special Period. The lifting of the U.S. economic embargo and the subjection of Cuba to the full force of economic globalization will present an enormous challenge to the retention of an agricultural development model borne of crisis and isolation.

#### Global sustainable ag already

Altieri & Toledo ‘11 (Miguel A. Altieri & Victor Manuel Toledo The agroecological revolution in Latin America: rescuing nature, ensuring food sovereignty and empowering peasants The Journal of Peasant Studies Volume 38, Issue 3, 2011 Taylor & Francis Online pages 587-612)

Agro-ecology is providing the scientific, methodological and technological basis for a new ‘agrarian revolution’ worldwide (Altieri 2009, Wezel and Soldat 2009, Wezel et al. 2009, Ferguson and Morales 2010). Agro-ecology-based production systems are biodiverse, resilient, energetically efficient, socially just and comprise the basis of an energy, productive and food sovereignty strategy (Altieri 1995, Gliessman 1998). Agroecological initiatives aim at transforming industrial agriculture partly by transitioning the existing food systems away from fossil fuel-based production largely for agro-export crops and biofuels towards an alternative agricultural paradigm that encourages local/national food production by small and family farmers based on local innovation, resources and solar energy. This implies access of peasants to land, seeds, water, credit and local markets, partly through the creation of supportive economic policies, financial incentives, market opportunities and agroecological technologies.

#### Won’t go to war over food – empirics and innovations solve

Gordon Chang, 2-21-11, Cornell Law School, “Global Food Wars,” http://blogs.forbes.com/gordonchang/2011/02/21/global-food-wars/

In any event, food-price increases have apparently been factors in the unrest now sweeping North Africa and the Middle East. The poor spend up to half their disposable income on edibles, making rapid food inflation a cause of concern for dictators, strongmen, and assorted autocrats everywhere. So even if humankind does not go to war over bad harvests, Paskal may be right when she contends that climate change may end up altering the global map. This is not the first time in human history that food shortages looked like they would be the motor of violent geopolitical change. Yet amazing agronomic advances, especially Norman Borlaug’s Green Revolution in the middle of the 20th century, have consistently proved the pessimists wrong. In these days when capitalism is being blamed for most everything, it’s important to remember the power of human innovation in free societies—and the efficiency of free markets.

#### **Laundry list of alt causes**

Tipson 12 (Frederick, Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow special advisor to the Center for Science, Technology and Peacebuilding at the U.S. Institute of Peace, worked previously for the UN Development Programme, Microsoft, the MarkleFoundation, the Council on Foreign Relations, Hongkong Telecom,AT&T, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the University ofVirginia School of Law “Global Food Insecurity and "Political Malnutrition",” June 2012, Number 7, German Marshall Fund Connections, http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files\_mf/1339595984Tipson\_GlobalFoodInsecurity\_Jun12.pdf)

Meanwhile, the political dimensions of “food insecurity” go well beyond our compassion for people in the poorest countries who are most vulnerable to famine and malnutrition. Even during the remainder of this decade, we face a transition from localized food shortages and insecurities toward a more pervasive environment of global “food shocks” that have serious political consequences even for the richer world. 3 The combined effects of population trends, climate changes, water shortages, soil erosion or contamination, increased meat consumption, fisheries depletion, major livestock epidemics, or serious crop failures in overlapping and cascading ripple effects will strain already-vulnerable economies and political systems. Sudden price increases or shortages could prompt volatile popular reactions, especially if citizens even in “well-fed” locations lose trust in markets and governments to assure their access to adequate food supplies.

### Leadership

Plan is appeasement

Walser 12 – Ph.D. and a Senior Policy Analyst at The Heritage Foundation (Ray, “Cuban-American Leaders: “No Substitute for Freedom” in Cuba”, June 25 of 2012, <http://blog.heritage.org/2012/06/25/cuban-american-leaders-no-substitute-for-freedom-in-cuba/>)

However, these pleasing liberal assumptions are negated on a daily basis by hard-headed facts on the ground in Cuba. With each new step lifting restrictions on travel and remittances have come more demands for additional actions—not a reciprocal loosening of the regime’s grip on its citizens.¶ A one-of a-kind letter entitled “Commitment to Freedom,” signed by a distinguished battery of Cuban-American former senior executives for Fortune 500 companies and released on June 25, advises Washington and the Obama Administration to curb its enthusiasm for a policy of appeasement and concessions. It warns against falling for the Castro regime’s deceptive campaign to secure U.S. capital infusion and bank credits and lure some Cuban-American businessmen without ushering in a true economic and political opening.¶ The former CEOs argue that recent economic reforms heralded as game-changing are, in fact, “mostly cosmetic, heavily-taxed and revocable, and offer no legal protection or investment return.” The letter’s signatories further warn that the Castro regime “is seeking to divide and neutralize the Cuban-American community, and lure some of its businessmen, by selling the fallacious concept that there is no solution to Cuba’s predicament other than supporting cosmetic reforms without liberty and democracy.”¶ They are correct when they say the future “lies not with the current failed, octogenarian rulers, but with the leaders of the growing pro-democracy movement.”¶ The Obama Administration policy aimed at easing travel and remittances to Cuba has visibly failed to advance genuine economic or political freedom. With the unjust detention of American Alan Gross and the continual crackdown on dissent and protest, the regime cannot hide its iron fist of political repression.¶ It is time to take a tougher look at the shortcomings of U.S. Cuba policy and remind ourselves, as these former CEOs do, that when it comes to ending the tyranny of the Castro regime, there is “no substitute for freedom.”

Kills US credibility

Weissberg 10 - Professor of Political Science-Emeritus, University of Illinois-Urbana (Robert, “President Obama's Compulsive Appeasement Disorder”, August 27 of 2010, American Thinker, <http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/president_obamas_compulsive_ap.html>)

There's a simple explanation: we are no longer feared. Superpowers of yesteryear, going back to the Greeks and Romans, were feared for a reason -- they leveled a city to make an example. Today, by contrast, Uncle Sam relies on cajoling, bribery (think North Korea), entreating puny leaders of inchoate states (special envoys to the PLO's Mahmoud Abbas) and otherwise playing weak hands. We have gone from resolve to U.N. resolution. We've forgotten Machiavelli's sage advice: since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved.¶ Being feared does not require bombing Iran into the Stone Age, though that would certainly terrify North Korea and even slow down the Somali pirates. Being feared is when your enemy believes that you are willing to use overwhelming, deadly force, and this need not require nuking anybody. The trick is creating a credible, threatening persona -- convincing your enemy that while you may speak softly, you also carry a big stick and are willing to use it. Israel long ago learned this lesson, regardless of world outrage.

#### Single instances of action do not change international perceptions of the United States.

**Fettweis**, **8** (Christopher – professor of political science at Tulane, Credibility and the War on Terror, Political Science Quarterly, Winter)

Since Vietnam, scholars have been generally unable to identify cases in which high credibility helped the United States achieve its goals. The shortterm aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis, for example, did not include a string of Soviet reversals, or the kind of benign bandwagoning with the West that deterrence theorists would have expected. In fact, the perceived reversal in Cuba seemed to harden Soviet resolve. As the crisis was drawing to a close, Soviet diplomat Vasily Kuznetsov angrily told his counterpart, "You Americans will never be able to do this to us again."37 Kissinger commented in his memoirs that "the Soviet Union thereupon launched itself on a determined, systematic, and long-term program of expanding all categories of its military power .... The 1962 Cuban crisis was thus a historic turning point-but not for the reason some Americans complacently supposed."38 The reassertion of the credibility of the United States, which was done at the brink of nuclear war, had few long-lasting benefits. The Soviets seemed to learn the wrong lesson. There is actually scant evidence that other states ever learn the right lessons. Cold War history contains little reason to believe that the credibility of the superpowers had very much effect on their ability to influence others. Over the last decade, a series of major scholarly studies have cast further doubt upon the fundamental assumption of interdependence across foreign policy actions. Employing methods borrowed from social psychology rather than the economics-based models commonly employed by deterrence theorists, Jonathan Mercer argued that threats are far more independent than is commonly believed and, therefore, that reputations are not likely to be formed on the basis of individual actions.39 While policymakers may feel that their decisions send messages about their basic dispositions to others, most of the evidence from social psychology suggests otherwise. Groups tend to interpret the actions of their rivals as situational, dependent upon the constraints of place and time. Therefore, they are not likely to form lasting impressions of irresolution from single, independent events. Mercer argued that the interdependence assumption had been accepted on faith, and rarely put to a coherent test; when it was, it almost inevitably failed.40

#### Alt Cause – Guantanamo

Katulis, 9 (Brian, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, “Democracy Promotion in the Middle East and the Obama Administration”, A Century Foundation Report, http://tcf.org/publications/pdfs/pb681/Katulis.pdf)

Actions speak louder than words. In addition to changing how it talks about democracy and freedom, the United States must take tangible steps to regain its credibility in a process that one analyst calls “decontamination” from the negative practices associated with the Bush administration’s approach. 10 To reshape perceptions in the Middle East, the United States—including not only the Obama administration, but also members of Congress and representatives of the justice system—should find a solution to the policy question of thousands of detainees and prisoners under U.S. military control in Iraq; it should also continue its work in closing the Guantanamo detention camp and secret prison facilities run by the CIA, as well as abandon the practice of remanding terror suspects to countries with poor human rights records. The detention of tens of thousands of individuals, many of whom are from the Middle East, outside a transparent international framework for the rule of law reduces American credibility on democratic reform and opens it up to charges of hypocrisy, with critics of U.S. policy pointing out human rights and rule of law abuses justified in the name of fighting the war on terror. As a matter of values and principles, the United States should work with other countries to develop a sustainable and viable justice system that deals with these detainees. More broadly, the United States should take steps to restore habeas corpus and bring wiretap surveillance efforts back into the framework of the rule of law in the United States. Sending the signal that the United States is cleaning up its act on these fronts is a necessary step for reviving U.S. credibility on democracy promotion in the Middle East. Without some progress on these measures, anything else that the new administration tries to do on democracy promotion—whether it is political party building or civil society support, or any of the other traditional programs in the U.S. toolbox—will likely yield few results because of the substantial credibility gap. The new administration needs to send a clear message that the United States intends to practice what it preaches by adhering to the legal obligations it assumed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture, and other human rights treaties. Strengthening the legal framework for rule of law will require not only action on the part of the Obama administration but also engagement by leaders in the U.S. Congress. How the United States reintroduces itself to the world—keeping its national security policy in line with the highest human rights standards—will set the framework for how U.S. actions on the democracy promotion front are perceived throughout the Middle East. In addition to taking these steps to restore America’s image and credibility in the region, the new administration should look to enhance existing partnerships and build new ones. Given views about the United States in the Middle East, rather than go it alone, Washington should seek to develop joint efforts with other countries working to advance democracy in the Middle East, such as members of the European Union and Japan, and with multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank. The United States is not the only outside actor working to advance decent governance and democracy in the Middle East, and developing more strongly coordinated approaches to advancing democracy in the region will be necessary to meet the daunting challenges. Limited partnerships and coordination already exist on some fronts, particularly between some U.S. and European nongovernmental organizations, but expanding these collaborative efforts will help reframe perceptions of U.S. efforts to advance democracy in the Middle East.

#### No impact to credibility – allies won’t abandon us and adversaries can’t exploit it

Walt 11 (Stephen, Professor of International Relations – Harvard University, “Does the U.S. still need to reassure its allies?” Foreign Policy, 12-5, http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/12/05/us\_credibility\_is\_not\_our\_problem)

A perennial preoccupation of U.S. diplomacy has been the perceived need to reassure allies of our reliability. Throughout the Cold War, U.S. leaders worried that any loss of credibility might cause dominoes to fall, lead key allies to "bandwagon" with the Soviet Union, or result in some form of "Finlandization." Such concerns justified fighting so-called "credibility wars" (including Vietnam), where the main concern was not the direct stakes of the contest but rather the need to retain a reputation for resolve and capability. Similar fears also led the United States to deploy thousands of nuclear weapons in Europe, as a supposed counter to Soviet missiles targeted against our NATO allies. The possibility that key allies would abandon us was almost always exaggerated, but U.S. leaders remain overly sensitive to the possibility. So Vice President Joe Biden has been out on the road this past week, telling various U.S. allies that "the United States isn't going anywhere." (He wasn't suggesting we're stuck in a rut, of course, but saying that the imminent withdrawal from Iraq doesn't mean a retreat to isolationism or anything like that.) There's nothing really wrong with offering up this sort of comforting rhetoric, but I've never really understood why USS.S. leaders were so worried about the credibility of our commitments to others. For starters, given our remarkably secure geopolitical position, whether U.S. pledges are credible is first and foremost a problem for those who are dependent on U.S. help. We should therefore take our allies' occasional hints about realignment or neutrality with some skepticism; they have every incentive to try to make us worry about it, but in most cases little incentive to actually do it.

#### Doesn’t solve war – empirics

Christopher Fettweis, Assistant professor IR @ Tulane, 2010, “Threat and Anxiety in US Foreign Policy” pg 59-82

One potential explanation for the growth of global peace can be dismissed fairly quickly: US actions do not seem to have contributed much. The limited evidence suggests that there is little reason to believe in the stabilising power of the US hegemon, and that there is no relation between the relative level of American activism and international stability. During the 1990s, the United States cut back on its defence spending fairly substantially. By 1998, the United States was spending $100 billion less on defence in real terms than it had in 1990, a 25% reduction.29 To internationalists, defence hawks and other believers in hegemonic stability, this irresponsible ‘peace dividend’ endangered both national and global security. ‘No serious analyst of American military capabilities’, argued neo-conservatives William Kristol and Robert Kagan in 1996, ‘doubts that the defense budget has been cut much too far to meet America’s responsibilities to itself and to world peace’.30 And yet the verdict from the 1990s is fairly plain: the world grew more peaceful while the United States cut its forces. No state seemed to believe that its security was endangered by a less-capable US military, or at least none took any action that would suggest such a belief. No militaries were enhanced to address power vacuums; no security dilemmas drove insecurity or arms races; no regional balancing occurred once the stabilising presence of the US military was diminished. The rest of the world acted as if the threat of international war was not a pressing concern, despite the reduction in US military capabilities. Most of all, the United States was no less safe. The incidence and magnitude of global conflict declined while the United States cut its military spending under President Bill Clinton, and kept declining as the George W. Bush administration ramped the spending back up. Complex statistical analysis is unnecessary to reach the conclusion that world peace and US military expenditure are unrelated.

### LA Relations

#### Status quo solves---tourism and Castro reform

Brinkley ‘12 (Joel Brinkley- professor of journalism at Stanford University, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former foreign correspondent for The New York Times; “Cuba embargo isn't working but isn't going away”; 12/18/12; http://www.politico.com/story/2012/12/cuba-embargo-isnt-working-but-isnt-going-away-85281.html)

Some Cuba experts argue that allowing American tourists to visit Cuba for the first time since 1960 might bring the beginnings of substantial change by fostering greater prosperity. They point to China, a passive agrarian society until the government opened the economy, pulling millions of Chinese out of poverty. Suddenly, these newly prosperous people began standing up to their government, demanding greater freedom and opportunities. The same could be true for Cuba, Henken said.¶ President Raúl Castro has opened the economy a bit, allowing more free enterprise. But apparently wary of this threat, his efforts have been small, cautious and halting.¶ The changes “are only half-hearted in the sense that [Cuban officials] are taking it slow,” Piccone said. “The want to manage it; they don’t want to undermine their political position.”¶ Henken jokingly calls Suchlicki “old Ironsides ” for his continuing support of the embargo. Most Cuban-Americans of Suchlicki’s era agree with his position. In Henken’s view, though, “it’s really hard to keep justifying it since it hasn’t borne any fruit.” Cuban-Americans seem to be coming to the same view. A recent poll by Florida International University in Miami showed that just 50 percent of Cuban-Americans still support the embargo, “well below its heyday,” the university said in a news release. “This, despite 80 percent believing that the embargo has not worked very well or not well at all.”¶ “We ought to change our tactics,” Piccone said, and “think of other ways to support our goals.”¶ Right now, though, Cuba and the embargo are not occupying even a moment of attention in Washington, given the urgent concerns about Iran, North Korea, the fiscal cliff and so much else. But that will almost certainly change next month.¶ In October, the Cuban government gave its people permission to travel at will beginning in mid-January. Well, since 1966 the Cuban Adjustment Act has afforded every Cuban who reaches the United States by any means automatic refugee asylum. Now, with travel to the U.S. legalized, some in Congress — including outgoing Rep. David Rivera (R-Fla.), a fervent embargo supporter — are talking about hurriedly revising the act before the new Cuban law takes effect next month and thousands of Cubans begin stepping off airplanes.¶ Suddenly Cuba could be thrust to center stage in Washington again. That may prove to be the time, some experts say, when serious discussion of the embargo could be on the table again, for the first time in more than 50 years.

#### The embargo doesn’t matter to Washington anymore---only concessions would make it relevant

Brinkley ‘12 (Joel Brinkley- professor of journalism at Stanford University, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former foreign correspondent for The New York Times; “Cuba embargo isn't working but isn't going away”; 12/18/12; http://www.politico.com/story/2012/12/cuba-embargo-isnt-working-but-isnt-going-away-85281.html)

America’s embargo on Cuba began its 53rd year this fall, and it’s hard to find anyone who thinks it’s working. Even Cuban-Americans who hate the Castro brothers and fervently insist that the embargo remain in place generally agree that it has accomplished little, if anything.¶ Still, said Jaime Suchlicki, a Cuban émigré who is the director of the Cuba Transition Project at the University of Miami, “do you give away a policy that has been in place for 50 years, whether you think it’s right or wrong, good or bad, effective or not — for nothing? Without a quid pro quo from Cuba?”¶ Suchlicki came to the United States in the first wave of Cuban refugees in 1960 after the communist revolution. His hardline views mirror those of many in his generation. And for decades, it dominated the Cuba discussion in Florida, a state presidential candidates have long believed they need to win to be elected.¶ But today the Cuban-American population is more diverse, as the U.S. presidential election last month showed. Previously, Cuban-Americans regularly voted in favor of Republicans, who are generally staunch embargo supporters, by 4 to 1. This time, President Barack Obama won half their vote.¶ Now an argument can be made that if the half-century of political paralysis on this issue can be overcome, both Cuba and the United States would benefit. American tourists would most likely pour into Cuba, buying cigars, staying in beachfront hotels — spending money in the Cuban economy. And American businesses would find an eager new market for a range of products beyond the food and medicine they are already authorized to sell.¶ “We cannot afford an obsolete ideological war against Cuba,” Richard Slatta, a history professor at North Carolina State University who specializes in Latin America, wrote in an op-ed last month. “The embargo against Cuba denies North Carolina businesses and farmers access to a major, proximate market.”¶ Cuba experts say many business leaders, particularly, are making the same case, especially now that the American economy has remained in the doldrums for so long. They add that it’s an obvious second-term issue; Obama doesn’t have to worry about winning Florida again.¶ But **for so many people in Washington, “Cuba doesn’t matter any more now,”** said Ted Piccone, deputy director for foreign policy at the Brookings Institution and a former National Security Council official. **“There’s no political incentive” to change the policy** — even though the arguments for changing it are rife. Despite ample provocation, the U.S. doesn’t impose similar embargoes on other authoritarian states.¶ Late last month, for example, Kazakhstan said it planned to shut down the last of its independent and opposition media, meaning “pluralism would quite simply cease to exist in this country,” Reporters Without Borders said in a news release. But has anyone talked about imposing an embargo there?¶ In September, Cambodia, one of the world’s most repressive nations, sentenced Mam Sonando, a 71-year-old radio station owner, to 20 years in jail for criticizing the government on air. He’d been broadcasting for decades. At about the same time, newspaper journalist Hang Serei Odom was found dead in the trunk of his car, hacked to death with an ax. He had been writing about illegal logging, a long-standing problem in Cambodia.¶ Despite that and much more, Obama visited Phnom Penh last month, attending an Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference. Has anyone in Washington advocated imposing an embargo there? Suchlicki said, “Maybe we should.”

#### Relations high now---US business involvement has meant a favorable opinion of the US by Latin Americans

Wilson 7-24-13 (Tim Wilson- freelance journalist for Near Shore America; “Despite Chavez and Snowden, Pro-U.S. Sentiment Grows in Latin America”; http://www.nearshoreamericas.com/chavez-snowden-latin-america-perceptions-us/)

This is a common phenomenon. The Pew Research Center, in tracking attitudes in Latin America’s two biggest economies, found that in 2012 69% of people in both Brazil and Mexico had a favorable attitude to American music, movies, and television. But when it comes to how Americans “do business”, only 43% of Mexicans and 45% of Brazilians had a favorable view. By contrast, the most recent data indicate that favorable views of the United States have experienced a significant boost: 73% for Brazilians (up from 61% in 2012), and 66% for Mexicans (up from 56% in 2012).¶ “You can see the change in U.S. favorability ratings in Mexico in our 2013 report,” Molly Rohal of the Pew Research Center tells Nearshore Americas. “We also have trend data in the Global Indicators Database.”¶ The trend is your friend¶ Specific to Latin America, the trend data is cause for optimism, given that Latin America is a young continent, and younger people have a more positive view of the U.S. In Brazil, for example, 78% of those between 18 to 29 years of age, and 72% of those between 30 to 49, had a positive view of US popular culture. In Mexico, the percentages were 79% and 70% respectively. And for those over 50 years of age? Only 55% of Brazilians had a positive view, and 57% of Mexicans.¶ But Latin America is more than Mexico and Brazil, and the greater region is experiencing an ideological divide between populist left leaning governments (Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Cuba, and Nicaragua) and neo-liberal regimes embracing market reforms (Colombia, Chile, and most of Central America). The populist governments like to ratchet up the anti-US rhetoric, echoing the Cold War divide when the United States supported many repressive right wing dictatorships.¶ The irony is that the overall perceptions are not that bad, and that the lower the economic engagement with the United States, the less favorable the view. This is interesting in that “business” scores low, suggesting that there is a more general challenge faced by the private sector, and not one that is specific to U.S. businesses. In fact, when U.S. business is involved**, the populace tends to have a positive view.**¶Consequently, **high-contact and business friendly governments** like Chile and El Salvador **have favorable views**, at 68% and 79%, respectively. By comparison, 55% of Bolivians see the U.S. in a favorable light. In Argentina – a country that makes a habit of rounding out the bottom of positive attitudes to the U.S. – only 41% of the population has a positive view of the U.S.¶ Other research has revealed that **Latin America, as a region, has a more positive view of the United States and her people than any other**. The tenth joint report by Americas Quarterly and Efecto Naím, for example, has indicated that popular support for the U.S. exists even in those countries that have populist regimes critical of the United States. And ongoing research from Latinobarómetro has shown that majorities in most Latin American countries have a positive view of the United States.¶ As with other research, Latinobarómetro has found that close economic and cultural ties build a positive experience. Trade, remittances, and investment – including in technology driven areas that involve a skilled workforce, such as Business Process and IT Outsourcing – can build goodwill.

#### Multiple alt causes prove embargo wouldn’t be enough to solve relations in all of Latin America

Lobe ’12 (Jim Lobe- joined IPS in 1979 and opened its Washington, D.C. bureau in 1980, serving as bureau chief for most of the years since. He founded his popular blog dedicated to United Stated foreign policy in 2007. Jim is best known for his coverage of U.S. foreign policy for IPS, particularly the neo–conservative influence in the former George W. Bush administration. He has also written for Foreign Policy In Focus, AlterNet, The American Prospect and Tompaine.com, among numerous other outlets; has been featured in on-air interviews for various television news stations around the world, including Al Jazeera English; and was featured in BBC and ABC television documentaries about motivations for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Jim has also lectured on U.S. foreign policy, neo-conservative ideology, the Bush administration and foreign policy and the U.S. mainstream media at various colleges and universities around the United States and world. A proud native of Seattle, Washington, Jim received a B.A. degree with highest honours in history at Williams College and a J.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law; “U.S., Latin America Growing More Distant, Warns Think Tank”; April 11, 2012; <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/04/us-latin-america-growing-more-distant-warns-think-tank/>)

WASHINGTON, Apr 11 2012 (IPS) - Relations between the United States and Latin America have “grown more distant” in importance part due to the latter’s persistent disagreement with U.S. policies on immigration, drugs, and Cuba, according to a new report released here Wednesday on the eve of this year’s Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia. “The United States must regain credibility in the region by dealing seriously with an unfinished agenda of problems, including immigration, drugs, and Cuba – that stands in the way of a real partnership,” according to Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue (IAD).¶ The [20-page report](http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReport%20FINAL.pdf), entitled “Remaking the Relationship”, described current inter-American relations as “generally cordial but lack(ing) in vigor and purpose”. It suggested that Washington, in particular, has failed to fully come to terms with Latin America’s strong economic and political progress over the past two decades.¶ It also concluded that the two sides “need to do more to exploit the enormous untapped opportunities of their relationship in economics, trade, and energy”, as well as to work more closely together on global and regional problems.¶ “They need to breathe new life and vigor into hemispheric relations,” it stressed.¶ “If the United States and Latin America do not make the effort now, the chance may slip away,” the report warned. “The most likely scenario then would be marked by a continued drift in their relationship, further deterioration of hemispheric-wide institutions, a reduced ability and willingness to deal with a range of common problems, and a spate of missed opportunities for more robust growth and greater social equity.”¶ Coming on the eve of the Cartagena Summit, where many of these same issues are expected to claim centre-stage, the report represents as much of a consensus of elite opinion in both Americas as can be found.¶ Washington’s 40-year-old drug war and its impacts on the region will be major agenda item as a result of an unprecedented push by Latin American leaders to use the forum to discuss alternative strategies that could reduce the level of violence associated with drug trafficking.¶ Most of IAD’s members endorsed the report; there was only one partial dissent – by a former Latin America aide in the George H.W. Bush administration who objected to the report’s suggestion that legalisation of some drugs or decriminalisation could offer viable alternative solutions to dealing with illicit drug trafficking and the violence associated with it in many Latin American countries.¶ Founded 30 years ago, IAD’s membership includes 100 prominent figures divided roughly evenly between U.S. nationals, including one former president (Jimmy Carter) and numerous former cabinet officials and lawmakers from both Democratic and Republican administrations, on the one hand, and leading personalities from Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin Americans, including Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Ricardo Lagos, and Ernesto Zedillo, and nine other former Latin American presidents, on the other.¶ IAD is co-chaired by former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and former U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills.¶ In addition to leading politicians, members also include important business figures, heads of civil society organisations (CSOs), academics, and former top managers of multilateral or hemispheric organisations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations, the Organisation of American States ([OAS](http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/04/us-latin-america-growing-more-distant-warns-think-tank/)), and the UN’s Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others.¶ Latin America’s recent advances in reducing poverty and inequality, consolidating democratic practices, and establishing promising new ties with countries like China and India contrasts favourably, according to the report, with Washington’s travails resulting from its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 2008 financial crisis, growing inequality and political gridlock.¶ As a result, “(m)ost countries of the (Latin American) region view the United States as less and less relevant to their needs – and with declining capacity to propose and carry out strategies to deal with the issues that most concern them,” it said.¶ Moreover, Washington’s failure to deal effectively with three longstanding irritants to inter-American relations – immigration, drug policy, and Cuba – has hardly helped, the report noted.¶ The report noted that Washington’s **failure to achieve meaningful immigration reform** – the result, to a great extent, of its increasingly divisive politics – “**is breeding resentment across the region**, nowhere more so than in …Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.”¶ Recent signs that immigration from Mexico, in particular, has levelled off should, according to the report, offer an opportunity for U.S. policy makers to revise their views.¶ On drugs, the report called it “critical” that Washington respond to growing calls by Latin American leaders, most recently by Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, and Guatemala’s new president, Otto Perez, to consider alternative strategies, such as regulated legalisation of marijuana and decriminalisation of mere possession of certain drugs.¶ The report endorsed similar conclusions reached by the 2009 Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy, which was chaired by Cardoso, Zedillo, and former Colombian President Cesar Gaviria.¶ It said these alternatives, as well as staunching “the flow of dangerous arms southward from the United States” by drug cartels and enhanced U.S. support for national efforts at rehabilitating and re- integrating criminals and other migrants repatriated by Washington to their home countries, should serve as a “starting point for an honest U.S.-Latin American dialogue on the drug question”.¶ On Cuba, the only country whose head of state, at Washington’s insistence, has not been invited to Cartegena, the report asserted that Washington’s 50-year-old embargo “has not worked and, in fact, may have been counter-productive, prolonging Cuba’s repressive rule rather than ending it.”¶ Washington, it said, “needs to do far more to dismantle its severe, outdated constraints on normalized relations with Cuba,” while its “authoritarian regime” should be urged by its Latin and Caribbean neighbours to institute democratic reform.¶ On the more positive side, the report said “expanded trade, investment and energy cooperation offer the greatest promise for robust U.S.-Latin American relations” and that “intensive economic engagement by the United States may be the best foundation for wider partnerships across many issues as well as the best way to energize currently listless U.S. relations with the region.”¶ While the U.S. share of the Latin American market has diminished in recent years, its exports – now greater in value than its exports to Europe – have been growing “at an impressive pace”.¶ The report noted that the ratification of long-pending free trade accords with Colombia and Panama offer a good start, but that Washington should also seek a “broader framework for U.S. economic relations with Latin America,” despite the failure of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) to gain any traction.¶ The growing global influence of Latin America, particularly Brazil and Mexico, also calls for greater cooperation and consultation with the region’s leaders on global issues, including nuclear non- proliferation and climate change, according to the report.¶ It also commended Washington for its accommodation of new regional institutions, such as UNASUR, that currently exclude the U.S., but also suggested the two sides also focus in reforming the hemisphere’s oldest regional grouping, the Organisation of American States, particularly given its importance in establishing democratic norms.

#### The Amazon isn't vulnerable – reject their evidence

Morano and Washburn 2k Marc Morano is a co-producer of American Investigator's "Amazon Rainforest: Clear-Cutting the Myths." He is the communications director for James Inhofe, ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Kent Washburn is a co-producer of the same production. Citing Dr. Patrick Moore, PhD in Ecology and one of the founders of Greenpeace, and Philip Stott, Professor of Biogeography at University of London. "SHAKY SCIENCE BEHIND SAVE-RAINFOREST EFFORT," WorldNetDaily, 6/26, http://www.wnd.com/2000/06/4162/

“The Amazon is actually the least endangered forest in the world,” states Moore in American Investigator’s television newsmagazine documentary, “Clear-cutting the myths,” hosted by former CBS and CNN newsman Reid Collins. Moore explains that, in the 20 years of warnings about deforestation, “only 10 percent of the Amazon has been converted to date from what was original forest to agriculture and settlement.”¶ The finding that the Amazon rainforest threat is a myth based on bad science and political agendas — especially by unlikely critics such as Moore, other scientists and inhabitants of the region — is not expected to sit well with a movement that has enlisted schoolchildren throughout the United States and celebrities ranging from Sting to Alec Baldwin to Chevy Chase to Tom Jones and Tony Bennett. And which has also raised tens of millions of dollars for environmental activist groups. ¶ “This is where I really have a problem with modern-day environmentalism,” says Moore. “It confuses opinion with what we know to be true, and disguises what are really political agendas with environmental rhetoric. The fact of the matter is: There is a larger percentage of the Amazon rain forest intact than there are most other forests in this world.”¶ Moore left Greenpeace, the organization he helped found, in 1986, after finding himself at odds with other leaders of the group.¶ “We had already helped the world turn the corner on the environmental issues,” he said. “Once a majority agrees with you, its time to stop beating them over the head and sit down with them and try to figure out some solutions.” ¶ Yet, the notion that the Amazon jungles are threatened remains embedded in the popular culture:¶ The 1993 animated feature, “Ferngully: The Last Rainforest,” takes the Amazon’s mystical charm literally, showing magical rainforest fairies fighting for their lives against industrialist’s chainsaws and bulldozers.¶ National Geographic’s “Rainforest: Heroes of the High Frontier” warns that “despite efforts to save it, the rainforest is being consumed at an unprecedented rate.”¶ “Amazonia: A Celebration of Life” shows playful jungle animals being rudely awakened to the sound of chainsaws.¶ The 1992 Sean Connery feature “Medicine Man” shows Connery discovering the cure for cancer at his makeshift lab in the heart of a burning Amazon rainforest. He loses the cure when developers raze his facility in order to build a road.¶ Environmental groups from Greenpeace to the Sierra Club to the World Wilderness Foundation to the Environmental Defense Fund to the Smithsonian Institution conduct outreach efforts in the name of the rainforest. Dozens of other groups with names like Rainforest Relief, Rainforest Action Network and Rainforest Foundation were created for the sole purpose of exploiting the issue.¶ A tourist to Brazil who picks up a “Lonely Planet” travel book will read numerous pleas for help: “Unless things change … Indians will die with their forests,” it pleads. “Invaluable, irreplaceable Amazon may be lost forever.” ¶ “Lonely Planet” has company on the bookshelf: “At the current rate of deforestation,” Vice President Gore writes in “Earth in the Balance,” “Virtually all of the world’s tropical rainforests will be gone partway though the next century.”¶ The scientific evidence paints a much brighter picture of deforestation in the Amazon. Looking at the NASA Landsat satellite images of the deforestation rates in the Amazon rainforest, about 12.5 percent has been cleared. Of the 12.5 percent, one half to one third of that is fallow, or in the process of regeneration, meaning that at any given moment up to 94 percent of the Amazon is left to nature. Even the Environmental Defense Fund and Sting’s Rainforest Foundation concede, among the fine print, that the forest is nearly 90 percent intact. ¶ Philip Stott of the University of London and author of the new book, “Tropical Rainforests: Political and Hegemonic Myth-making,” maintains that the environmental campaigns have lost perspective. ¶ “One of the simple, but very important, facts is that the rainforests have only been around for between 12,000 and 16,000 years,” he says. “That sounds like a very long time, but in terms of the history of the earth, it’s hardly a pinprick. The simple point is that there are now still — despite what humans have done — more rainforests today than there were 12,000 years ago.” ¶ Moore maintains that “the rainforests of the Amazon, the Congo, Malaysia, Indonesia and a few other parts of the world are the least endangered forests” because “they are the least suitable for human habitation.”

#### No warming – newest data, sun, and oceans prove

Hudson, 9

Paul Hudson, Climate Correspondent, BBC News, 10/9, “What happened to global warming?”, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8299079.stm

This headline may come as a bit of a surprise, so too might that fact that the warmest year recorded globally was not in 2008 or 2007, but in 1998. / But it is true. For the last 11 years we have not observed any increase in global temperatures. / And our climate models did not forecast it, even though man-made carbon dioxide, the gas thought to be responsible for warming our planet, has continued to rise. / So what on Earth is going on? / Climate change sceptics, who passionately and consistently argue that man's influence on our climate is overstated, say they saw it coming. / They argue that there are natural cycles, over which we have no control, that dictate how warm the planet is. But what is the evidence for this? / During the last few decades of the 20th Century, our planet did warm quickly. / Sceptics argue that the warming we observed was down to the energy from the Sun increasing. After all 98% of the Earth's warmth comes from the Sun. / But research conducted two years ago, and published by the Royal Society, seemed to rule out solar influences. / The scientists' main approach was simple: to look at solar output and cosmic ray intensity over the last 30-40 years, and compare those trends with the graph for global average surface temperature. / And the results were clear. "Warming in the last 20 to 40 years can't have been caused by solar activity," said Dr Piers Forster from Leeds University, a leading contributor to this year's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). / But one solar scientist Piers Corbyn from Weatheraction, a company specialising in long range weather forecasting, disagrees. / He claims that solar charged particles impact us far more than is currently accepted, so much so he says that they are almost entirely responsible for what happens to global temperatures. / He is so excited by what he has discovered that he plans to tell the international scientific community at a conference in London at the end of the month. / If proved correct, this could revolutionise the whole subject. / Ocean cycles / What is really interesting at the moment is what is happening to our oceans. They are the Earth's great heat stores. / According to research conducted by Professor Don Easterbrook from Western Washington University last November, the oceans and global temperatures are correlated. / The oceans, he says, have a cycle in which they warm and cool cyclically. The most important one is the Pacific decadal oscillation (PDO). / For much of the 1980s and 1990s, it was in a positive cycle, that means warmer than average. And observations have revealed that global temperatures were warm too. / But in the last few years it has been losing its warmth and has recently started to cool down. / These cycles in the past have lasted for nearly 30 years. / So could global temperatures follow? The global cooling from 1945 to 1977 coincided with one of these cold Pacific cycles. / Professor Easterbrook says: "The PDO cool mode has replaced the warm mode in the Pacific Ocean, virtually assuring us of about 30 years of global cooling." / So what does it all mean? Climate change sceptics argue that this is evidence that they have been right all along. / They say there are so many other natural causes for warming and cooling, that even if man is warming the planet, it is a small part compared with nature.

# 2NC

## Regional Commitment Conditions CP

### 2NC CP—AT: P/ CP—“Establish”

####  “Establish” requires certainty.

Webster’s English Dictionary, xx-xx-2010, Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, “establish,” <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/establish>

es•tab•lish (ɪˈstæb lɪʃ) v.t. 1. to bring into being on a firm or permanent basis; found; institute: to establish a university.

### 2NC CP—AT: P/ CP—Top Level

#### “Economic engagement” must be bilateral.

Miles Kahler1 and Scott L. Kastner, 11-xx-2004, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California, San Diego1, Department of Government and Politics University of Maryland2, “Strategic Uses of Economic Interdependence: Engagement Policies in South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan,” <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/kastner/KahlerKastner.doc>

Economic engagement—a policy of deliberately expanding economic ties with an adversary in order to change the behavior of the target state and effect an improvement in bilateral political relations—is the subject of growing, but still limited, interest in the international relations literature. The bulk of the work on economic statecraft continues to focus on coercive policies such as economic sanctions. The emphasis on negative forms of economic statecraft is not without justification: the use of economic sanctions is widespread and well-documented, and several quantitative studies have shown that adversarial relations between countries tend to correspond to reduced, rather than enhanced, levels of trade (Gowa 1994; Pollins 1989). At the same time, however, relatively little is known about how widespread strategies of economic engagement actually are: scholars disagree on this point, in part because no database cataloging instances of positive economic statecraft exists (Mastanduno 2003). Furthermore, beginning with the classic work of Hirschman (1945), most studies in this regard have focused on policies adopted by great powers. But engagement policies adopted by South Korea and the other two states examined in this study, Singapore and Taiwan, demonstrate that engagement is not a strategy limited to the domain of great power politics; instead, it may be more widespread than previously recognized.

#### “Resolved” necessitates certainty.

American Heritage Dictionary, 11-xx-2011, The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, an American dictionary of the English language published by Boston publisher Houghton Mifflin, “resolve,” <http://www.ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=resolved&submit.x=-826&submit.y=-210>

re·solved, re·solv·ing, re·solves v.tr. 1. a. To make a firm decision about: resolved that I would do better next time. See Synonyms at decide.

#### “Should” mandates certainty.

The Collins English Dictionary, 12-31-2011, the Collins English Dictionary, a printed and online dictionary of English, “English Dictionary – definition of “should”,” <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/should?showCookiePolicy=true>

should Definitions verb the past tense of shall: used as an auxiliary verb to indicate that an action is considered by the speaker to be obligatory ( you should go) or to form the subjunctive mood with I or we ( I should like to see you; if I should be late, go without me) See also shall Should has, as its most common meaning in modern English, the sense ought as in I should go to the graduation, but I don't see how I can. However, the older sense of the subjunctive of shall is often used with I or we to indicate a more polite form than would: I should like to go, but I can't. In much speech and writing, should has been replaced by would in contexts of this kind, but it remains in formal English when a conditional subjunctive is used: should he choose to remain, he would be granted asylum Word Origin Old English sceold; see shall shall Definitions verb Word forms: past tense should takes an infinitive without to or an implied infinitive esp with I or we as subject used as an auxiliary to make the future tense ⇒ we shall see you tomorrow Compare will1 (sense 1) with you, he, she, it, they, or a noun as subject used as an auxiliary to indicate determination on the part of the speaker, as in issuing a threat ⇒ you shall pay for this! used as an auxiliary to indicate compulsion, now esp in official documents ⇒ the Tenant shall return the keys to the Landlord used as an auxiliary to indicate certainty or inevitability ⇒ our day shall come

#### “Should” requires immediacy.

Summers, 94 — Justice on the Oklahoma Supreme Court (“Kelsey v. Dollarsaver Food Warehouse of Durant”, 199hgghj4 OK 123, 11-8, <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn13>)

4 The legal question to be resolved by the court is whether the word "should"[13](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn13) in the May 18 order connotes futurity or may be deemed a ruling in praesenti.[14](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn14) The answer to this query is not to be divined from rules of grammar;[15](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287" \l "marker3fn15) it must be governed by the age-old practice culture of legal professionals and its immemorial language usage. To determine if the omission (from the critical May 18 entry) of the turgid phrase, "and the same hereby is", (1) makes it an in futuro ruling - i.e., an expression of what the judge will or would do at a later stage - or (2) constitutes an in in praesenti resolution of a disputed law issue, the trial judge's intent must be garnered from the four corners of the entire record.[16](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn16)  5 Nisi prius orders should be so construed as to give effect to every words and every part of the text, with a view to carrying out the evident intent of the judge's direction.[17](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn17) The order's language ought not to be considered abstractly. The actual meaning intended by the document's signatory should be derived from the context in which the phrase to be interpreted is used.[18](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn18) When applied to the May 18 memorial, these told canons impel my conclusion that the judge doubtless intended his ruling as an in praesenti resolution of Dollarsaver's quest for judgment n.o.v. Approval of all counsel plainly appears on the face of the critical May 18 entry which is [885 P.2d 1358] signed by the judge.[19](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn19) True minutes[20](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker3fn20) of a court neither call for nor bear the approval of the parties' counsel nor the judge's signature. To reject out of hand the view that in this context "should" is impliedly followed by the customary, "and the same hereby is", makes the court once again revert to medieval notions of ritualistic formalism now so thoroughly condemned in national jurisprudence and long abandoned by the statutory policy of this State. [Continues – To Footnote] [14](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=20287#marker2fn14) In praesenti means literally "at the present time." BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY 792 (6th Ed. 1990). In legal parlance the phrase denotes that which in law is presently or immediately effective, as opposed to something that will or would become effective in the future [in futurol]. See Van Wyck v. Knevals, [106 U.S. 360](http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/deliverdocument.asp?box1=106&box2=U.S.&box3=360), 365, 1 S.Ct. 336, 337, 27 L.Ed. 201 (1882).

#### “Substantial” means unconditional and immediate.

Words and Phrases, 1964 (40 W&P 759)

The words “outward, open, actual, visible, substantial, and exclusive,” in connection with a change of possession, mean substantially the same thing. They mean not concealed; not hidden; exposed to view; free from concealment, dissimulation, reserve, or disguise; in full existence; denoting that which not merely can be, but is opposed to potential, apparent, constructive, and imaginary; veritable; genuine; certain; absolute; real at present time, as a matter of fact, not merely nominal; opposed to form; actually existing; true; not including admitting, or pertaining to any others; undivided; sole; opposed to inclusive.

#### “Increase” must be immediate relative to the status quo.

Rogers 5 Judge, STATE OF NEW YORK, ET AL., PETITIONERS v. U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, RESPONDENT, NSR MANUFACTURERS ROUNDTABLE, ET AL., INTERVENORS, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 12378, \*\*; 60 ERC (BNA) 1791, 6/24, lexis

[\*\*48]  Statutory Interpretation. [HN16](http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=1fe428155fdfc9074f3623f0dae9d78a&docnum=14&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkAW&_md5=0ebd338d6a7793de8561db53b915effd&focBudTerms=term%20increase&focBudSel=all#clscc16)While the CAA defines a "modification" as any physical or operational change that "increases" emissions, it is silent on how to calculate such "increases" in emissions. [42 U.S.C. § 7411(a)(4)](http://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=8541fbf7a7f5554ca588059b132acd17&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b367%20U.S.%20App.%20D.C.%203%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=103&_butInline=1&_butinfo=42%20U.S.C.%207411&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=14&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkAW&_md5=1f89a0e47b1996a5400e8d865d8da08a). According to government petitioners, the lack of a statutory definition does not render the term "increases" ambiguous, but merely compels the court to give the term its "ordinary meaning." See [Engine Mfrs.Ass'nv.S.Coast AirQualityMgmt.Dist., 541 U.S. 246, 124 S. Ct. 1756, 1761, 158 L. Ed. 2d 529(2004)](http://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=8541fbf7a7f5554ca588059b132acd17&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b367%20U.S.%20App.%20D.C.%203%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=3&_butStat=2&_butNum=104&_butInline=1&_butinfo=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b541%20U.S.%20246%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=14&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkAW&_md5=48f016ea3eabfdb898b67b348b11662c); [Bluewater Network, 370 F.3d at 13](http://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=8541fbf7a7f5554ca588059b132acd17&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b367%20U.S.%20App.%20D.C.%203%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=3&_butStat=2&_butNum=105&_butInline=1&_butinfo=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b370%20F.3d%201%2cat%2013%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=14&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkAW&_md5=78fdfe9d48c7b91d7659b90c0198707e); [Am. Fed'n of Gov't Employees v. Glickman, 342 U.S. App. D.C. 7, 215 F.3d 7, 10 [\*23]  (D.C. Cir. 2000)](http://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=8541fbf7a7f5554ca588059b132acd17&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b367%20U.S.%20App.%20D.C.%203%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=3&_butStat=2&_butNum=106&_butInline=1&_butinfo=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b342%20U.S.%20App.%20D.C.%207%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=14&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkAW&_md5=fb18ff0b92931ac00621d88dae997e67). Relying on two "real world" analogies, government petitioners contend that the ordinary meaning of "increases" requires the baseline to be calculated from a period immediately preceding the change. They maintain, for example, that in determining whether a high-pressure weather system "increases" the local temperature, the relevant baseline is the temperature immediately preceding the arrival of the weather system, not the temperature five or ten years ago. Similarly,  [\*\*49]  in determining whether a new engine "increases" the value of a car, the relevant baseline is the value of the car immediately preceding the replacement of the engine, not the value of the car five or ten years ago when the engine was in perfect condition.

####  “Toward” implies certainty.

Anne Marie Lofaso, 2-24-2010, West Virginia University, College of Law, “Talking is Worthwhile: The Role of Employee Voice in Protecting, Enhancing, and Encouraging Individual Rights to Job Security in a Collective System,” <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1558563>

The obligations placed on employers are significant in two ways. First and significantly, the Collective Redundancies Directive places on employers a duty to consult "with a view to reaching an agreement." n172 Given the Directive's language choice, this consultation right seems to be at least coextensive with the federal right to bargain under the National Labor Relations Act and perhaps even greater than the right granted under the NLRA. Federal courts interpreting NLRA Section 8(d)'s definition of the bargaining duty n173 have made clear that the duty to bargain does not include the duty to come to agreement. n174 Perhaps this is why Professor [\*86] Summers, in describing the duty to bargain under Section 8(d) always referred to it as obligating the parties to bargain in good faith with "a view toward reaching agreement." The use of the preposition "toward" suggests a duty to come close to agreement but not a duty to close the deal.

## Vietnam Rice DA

### 2NC I—ASEAN—Impact Kata

#### This outweighs—probability—highest risk of escalation.

Landay, 2k (Jonathon S, national security and intelligence correspondent, “Top administration officials warn stakes for U.S. are high in Asian conflicts”, Knight Ridder)

Few if any experts think China and Taiwan, North Korea and South Korea, or India and Pakistan are spoiling to fight. But even a minor miscalculation by any of them could destabilize Asia, jolt the global economy and even start a nuclear war. India, Pakistan and China all have nuclear weapons, and North Korea may have a few, too. Asia lacks the kinds of organizations, negotiations and diplomatic relationships that helped keep an uneasy peace for five decades in Cold War Europe. "Nowhere else on Earth are the stakes as high and relationships so fragile," said Bates Gill, director of northeast Asian policy studies at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "We see the convergence of great power interest overlaid with lingering confrontations with no institutionalized security mechanism in place. There are elements for potential disaster."

### 2NC I—ASEAN—Environment

#### ASEAN’s key to solve environmental collapse—impact’s extinction.

Swajaya, 6-07-2012, Ngurah Swajaya, Indonesia’s permanent representative to Asean, served as special adviser to the president of the Bali international conferences on climate change in 2007 and the chair of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2001, “Rio+ 20: An Opportunity for Asean to Stand Up And Play a Major Role in Shaping Earth’s Future,” Jakarta Globe, June 7, <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/archive/rio-20-an-opportunity-for-asean-to-stand-up-and-play-a-major-role-in-shaping-earths-future/>)

It may indeed be the last chance for the international community to push the reset button to ensure that the more than 7 billion people in the world today can be fed, clothed and sheltered without further damaging the environment. That’s because 20 years after the first Earth Summit, the world’s environment continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, while the socioeconomic plight of some 80 percent of humankind remains bleak. Most of the world’s production is consumed by a small percentage of the world’s population. The gap between the haves and have-nots continues to widen in the face of uncertainties and the threat of a double-dip depression triggered by the euro-zone crisis. Efforts to reinvigorate commitment to Rio Agenda 21 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 did not bring much progress. The Bali Climate Conference of 2007 yielded encouraging results, but subsequent global negotiations on climate change were all inconclusive. The Living Planet Report 2012 issued by the WWF and Global Footprint Network shows a global decline in freshwater supply by 37 percent, with tropical freshwater supply diminishing by a whopping 70 percent. Since 1970, the report says, humankind’s yearly consumption has exceeded what the Earth can renew. Years ago, it was already predicted that the Mekong River in Southeast Asia would be one of 10 river systems to dry up when Himalayan glaciers are lost due to climate change. Those are some of the grim facts that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations must face. The third-largest economy in Asia, Asean is expected to grow at an average of 4 to 5 percent in the next two to three decades. The Asian Development Bank Institute has predicted that, assuming a modest annual growth, by 2030 Asean’s per capita GDP will double or triple its 2010 growth. But that growth will entail massive use of fossil fuels and equally massive greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, the study indicates, 50 percent of Asean people will live in cities, resulting in the further deterioration of air quality and depletion of drinking water supplies. Given this backdrop, Asean is called upon to take bold steps to collectively contribute, as a regional community of nations, to the solution of the global challenges of climate change and sustainable development, for the following reasons: First, given Asean’s explosive growth in the next two decades, sustainable development is not an option, but an imperative. Second, Asean countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines are highly experienced in forging global consensus on sustainable development. Third, the global political landscape is not what it was a decade ago, when there was a clear divide between the developed and developing world. Fourth, Asean’s commitment to sustainable development is enshrined in various important Asean documents, including the Asean Charter. Fifth, by virtue of the Bali Concord III, Asean has solemnly committed itself to contribute to the solution of global problems. For several years now, Asean has been pursuing a policy of sustainable development. It strives for high and inclusive economic growth without jeopardizing the ecology. Through various arrangements, Asean countries are cooperating among themselves and with dialogue partners to address climate change through sustainable forestry management, the promotion of energy security and energy efficiency, initiatives to make extractive industries more eco-friendly, protecting biodiversity and, in general, promoting a green economy. At the Rio+20, Asean can advocate such cooperative undertakings and also help build global political consensus toward meaningful outcomes beyond political rhetoric. This is a role for Asean that Indonesia championed during its tenure as Asean chair last year. And Asean has the opportunity to realize it in the upcoming Rio+20 — and thereby help save humankind from the dangerous follies of pollution.

### 2NC L—AT: “Lol Normalize=Anything”

#### In the context of Cuba, “normalize” refers to the total removal of economic sanctions.

Glenn Price et al, xx-xx-2008, <http://ammonwiemers.weebly.com/uploads/1/5/1/3/1513778/08pfnats.pdf>

Normalize relations is not a term of art that is easily defined by foreign policy experts. Normalize is defined as to establish or resume in a normal manner, as between countries. Essentially, in the case of Cuba, almost all scholars agree that the key component to normalizing relations involves removing sanctions on the country of Cuba. In fact, it may be a prerequisite to doing anything else with Cuba because the sanctions placed on Cuba encompass most other actions that the Pro can take to normalize relations.

## Communications Tech DA

### AT: Transition Add-On

#### Gradualism turn—Cuban reforms are successful now—the plan puts reforms on overdrive which collapses the transition.

Piccone 12—vice president and director for the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institute, served on the National Security Council (Ted, “Cuba Is Changing, Slowly but Surely,” The Brookings Institute, 1/19, http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2012/01/19-cuba-piccone)//BJ

A closer look, however, reveals something more profound—a wholesale mental shift, outlined clearly by President Raul Castro over the last two years, that the time has come to move the Cuban people from wholesale dependence on the state to a new era of individual responsibility and citizenship. This is going to take time. The economic reforms or “updating” of Cuba’s Soviet-style economic system, approved last spring at the Communist Party’s first National Congress in 14 years, are just beginning to be enacted. They include an expansion of licenses for private enterprise (over 350,000 have been granted), opening more idle land to farmers and cooperatives, allowing businesses to hire employees, empowering people to buy and sell their houses and cars, and opening new lines of credit with no legal ceilings on how much Cubans can borrow. Non-state actors are allowed now to sell unlimited services and commodities directly to state-owned enterprises and joint ventures, thereby opening new channels of commercial activity between farmers and tourist hotels, for example. Think Viet Nam or China. The reforms include tough measures too, like shrinking the buying power of the longstanding ration card that every Cuban gets to purchase subsidized basic goods, cutting unemployment benefits, and eventually dismissing anywhere from 500,000 to one million employees from the state sector as bureaucratic middlemen become obsolete and tax revenues rise. These changes, while painful, are reason enough to be optimistic about Cuba’s economic future. But something much more fundamental is at work—a turn away from government control of pricing and subsidizing products throughout the economy to a more decentralized framework of subsidizing persons based on need. At heart, the Castro government is prepared to move Cuba from a society based on equity of results to equality of opportunity, infused with a culture of humanism. Not that Cuba’s system ever offered true equality, as one taxi driver reminded me as we drove down Havana’s famous seaside Malecon. The door, however, is now opening wider to the inevitable rise in inequality that comes from capitalism, even restrained forms of it. Whether one is able to prosper as a self-employed restauranteur, or is the beneficiary of generous relatives sending remittances and goods home from Miami, new gradations in Cuba’s economic and social strata are on the way. As long as someone arrives at their wealth legally and pays their taxes, assured one senior party official, they are free to become rich. The big question for Cuba’s leaders today is whether they can bring their people with them down this new, uncertain path after five decades of Cuban-style communism. If reforms happen too quickly, it could cause excessive dislocation and unhappiness and potentially destabilize the regime. Already bureaucrats who have something to lose under the new system are resisting change, much to Raul Castro’s chagrin. If the pace of change is too slow, on the other hand, budding entrepreneurs, the middle class and disaffected youth, who have no overt commitment to the values of the 1959 revolution, may give up sooner and head to greener pastures in the United States, Spain or Canada. As it is, Cubans are leaving the island in droves to join their families in Florida and beyond, beneficiaries of U.S. policies that grant Cubans preferred immigration benefits once their feet reach American soil, and of Spanish laws that grant some Cubans Spanish citizenship.

# 1NR

## Agriculture Advantage

### Cigars Turn

#### Cuba is home to thousands of unique species—environmental collapse risks extinction – outweighs their internal link

Calzadilla 13(Erasmo, PhD in pharmaceuticals and writer for Havana Times, Havana Times, 5/24/13,http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=93596)

HAVANA TIMES — In 2000, with the aim of alerting humanity to the extinction of ecosystems, species and genes and the accelerated decline in biodiversity it was causing, the United Nations’ General Assembly declared May 22 International Day for Biological Biodiversity.¶ One may think that, ultimately, humanity does not need so many bugs around it to get by, that it is an aesthetic, or, at most, an ethical issue. Nothing could be further from the truth.¶ In addition to all of the direct or indirect “services” these bugs offer, diversity is the stabilizer of the biosphere, its shield against disturbances and aggressions. Without it, we’re toast.¶ We are the species with the most sophisticated brain the earth has ever known and we behave like a lowly plague attacking a planet. We’re a sorry sight indeed.¶ Though the problem appears complex, the options before us are simple enough: either we slowly, rationally slow down our growth as a species, avoiding catastrophes wherever possible, or we do it through wars, environmental and social crises, epidemics and natural disasters. Let no one be naïve enough to be deceived, at this stage in the game, by that misguided notion called “sustainable development”.¶ Biodiversity in Cuba¶ In spite of phenomena such as the proliferation of aggressive fish species, the creation of artificial land bridges, irresponsible sugar-cane harvesting practices, the use of transgenic products and the propagation of marabou across our fields and cities, Cuba continues to be a prodigious island in terms of biodiversity.¶ The Cuban archipelago boasts of a broad variety of plants and animals (7,500 and 19,600 species, respectively), a very high number of which are endemic to the island (50 and 42%). In terms of biodiversity, Cuba ranks fourth among the world’s islands and first in the Caribbean region.¶ The Cuban revolution has undermined biodiversity with one hand, and worked arduously to preserve it with the other. On the one hand, it has been characterized by a drive towards development, by voluntarism, then by the bureaucratization of society, carelessness, shortages and negligence.¶ Once an invader, Leucaena reigns in Cuba’s neighborhoods today.¶ On the other, it has shown an ecological awareness never before seen in the region: it has created research centers, trained professionals and developed a sophisticated legislation to protect the country’s flora and fauna.¶ I won’t draw a balance of the positive and negative things done in this connection. I’ll leave that in the hands of more informed persons. I would instead like to avail myself of the lines that follow to touch on a situation I know well, having experienced it personally.¶ Cuba’s Ecology and Systematics Institute¶ A bit over five years ago, I worked at Cuba’s Ecology and Systematics Institute (IES), one of the 70 scientific institutions involved in the protection of the country’s ecosystems.¶ Back then, the IES had a valuable team of researchers at its disposal but no money (and the crisis hadn’t even hit yet). To earn a bit of dough or get their hands on quality equipment, the scientists employed by the institute had to become involved in international projects, which were not always related to the aims of the organization.¶ As if this wasn’t enough, bureaucratic hurdles kept everyone on a tight rein and even prevented the use of the money that was available. There was a sense of frustration all around one and it was typical for scientists to ask for asylum abroad when given the opportunity to travel outside of Cuba.¶ There was no money for the institute’s essential work and, of course, for anything else. There were never enough custodians around and, every month, the institute bemoaned the theft of an expensive piece of equipment or even collections which, I was told, were considered part of the country’s natural heritage.¶ Needless to say, the food and transportation available for employees was terrible.¶ I don’t know whether the IES I got to know over 5 years ago was the exception or the rule. But if the other 70 research centers are in similar condition (and this is what I presume), then Cuban biodiversity ought to begin looking for a way of protecting itself.