=1AC – Ohio Valley=

==Plan==

====The United States federal government should license the development of Cuban offshore oil in the North Cuba Basin. ====

==Advantage 1 is Russia==

====The plan is key to US-Cuban energy cooperation that spills over to broader cooperation with Cuba that promotes democracy====

\*\*Benjamin 10\*\* – Jonathan Benjamin-Alvadaro, Report for the Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, PhD, Professor of Political Science at University of Nebraska at Omaha, Director of the Intelligence Community Centers of Academic Excellence Program at UNO, Treasurer of the American Political Science Association, 2010, Brookings Institution book, "Cuba~’s Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation"

Conclusion and Recommendations

Oil exploration is an inherently risky enterprise; there are always trade-offs between

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tangible benefits for the people of Cuba, it neighbors, and beyond.

====Cuba-Russia relations are increasing and will cause war—-boosting US-Cuba relations solves====

\*\*Inter-American Dialogue 12\*\* (U.S. based think tank for policy analysis, exchange, and communication on issues in Western Hemisphere affairs, "Are External Tensions Entangling Latin American Countries?" http://www.cepr.net/documents/CEPR\_News/LAA120810.pdf)

A Stephen Johnson, senior fellow and director of the Americas Program at the Center

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Latin America. There is no reason for the Russians to do so."

====Russia will drill in Cuba next year – now is the pivotal time to engage Cuba====

\*\*Tamayo 13\*\*

(Juan – Writer at The Miami Herald. Past Experience ¶ Andean Bureau Chief at Miami Herald¶ Caribbean Correspondent at Miami Herald¶ Foreign Editor at Miami Herald. Award-winning journalist with more than 25 years of experience as foreign correspondent and editor with The Miami Herald, focusing on Latin America - especially Cuba - as well as the Middle East and Europe. Proven writer, editor and analyst, with contacts around the world. Miami Herald – Friday, 05.31.13¶ http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/05/31/3424471/russian-oil-company-suspends.html~~%23storylink=cpy)

A Russian state oil company drilling off Cuba~’s northern shores has reportedly confirmed that it

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about 20 percent to that island~’s exploration costs, according to Cuban officials.

====Increased Cuba-Russia relations causes war====

\*\*Richter 08\*\* (Paul, Staff Writer for New York Times, "Moscow-Havana ties worry U.S." http://articles.latimes.com/2008/sep/01/world/fg-usrussia1)

But at a time when Russia has intervened forcefully in Georgia and is extending the

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that sending the bombers would cross a "red line in the sand."

====Licensing American companies to develop Cuban offshore resources leads to effective drilling and increased influence in the region – Particularly crowds out Russia====

\*\*Pascual and Huddleston 9\*\* Carlos, Vice president and Director of Foreign policy, the Brookings Institution and Vicki, Visiting Fellow, "CUBA: A New policy of Critical and Constructive Engagement", April, http://www.brookings.edu/~~/media/research/files/reports/2009/4/cuba/0413\_cuba.pdf

Licensing U.S. companies to provide services for the development of Cuban offshore

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companies have the technology and expertise to develop Cuba~’s offshore oil and gas.

====Russian expansion spurs a new Cold War and proxy conflicts====

\*\*Walle 12\*\* (Walter, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, "Russia Turns to the South for Military and Economic Alliances," http://www.coha.org/russia-turns-to-the-south-for-military-and-economic-alliances/)

Quite clearly, Russia~’s interest in Latin America is escalating. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey

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alone among Latin American countries in recognizing the independence of the new republics.

====That causes miscalculation====

\*\*Orozco 08\*\* (Jose, Correspondent for Christian Science Monitor, "Cold war echo: Russian military maneuvers with Venezuela," http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2008/0912/p01s05-woam.html)

The last time a Russian Navy ship plied the azure waters of the Caribbean for

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as long-range patrol planes for the upcoming joint exercises with Venezuela.

====Extinction ====

\*\*Helfand and Pastore 9\*\* ~~[Ira Helfand, M.D., and John O. Pastore, M.D., are past presidents of Physicians for Social Responsibility. March 31, 2009, "U.S.-Russia nuclear war still a threat", http://www.projo.com/opinion/contributors/content/CT\_pastoreline\_03-31-09\_EODSCAO\_v15.bbdf23.html~~]

President Obama and Russian President Dimitri Medvedev are scheduled to Wednesday in London during the

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alert status of nuclear weapons that existed in 1995 remains in place today.

==Advantage 2 is Safety==

====Cuba will drill inevitably - It~’s a question of effectiveness====

\*\*LaGesse 12\*\*

David LaGesse¶ reporter, with recent articles that have appeared in National Geographic, Money, and most frequently in U.S. News %26 World Report – National Geographic News – November 19, 2012 – internally quoting Jorge Piñon, a former president of Amoco Oil Latin America (now part of BP) and an expert on Cuba~’s energy sector who is now a research fellow at the University of Texas at Austin.– http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2012/11/121119-cuba-oil-quest/

But an energy-poor Cuba also has its risks. One of the chief

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a major find. But that doesn~’t mean Cuba will give up trying.

====Status quo fails on every piece of technology—current drilling causes catastrophic spills====

\*\*Almeida 12\*\*

Rob Almeida is Partner/CMO at gCaptain. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1999 with a B.S in Naval Architecture and spent 6.5 years on active duty as a Surface Warfare Officer. He worked for a year as a Roughneck/Rig Manager trainee on board the drillship Discoverer Americas. May 18^^th^^ – http://gcaptain.com/drilling-cuba-embargo-badly/

But what if a catastrophic blowout occurs?¶ This was the subject of last week~’s

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has told us that there will be no US-based employees involved.

====Absent pro-active steps, accidents are inevitable. US experts key.====

\*\*Bolstad 12\*\*

Erika Bolstad is a reporter who covers Washington for the Anchorage Daily News, the Idaho Statesman and McClatchy Newspapers. This evidence internally quotes Lee Hunt, the former president of the International Association of Drilling Contractors. Hunt, in this instance, is arguably not biased in favor of drilling, as he is speaking to safety and clean-up regimes and he is speaking before a liberal think-tank in favor of human rights – McClatchy Newspapers – May 10, 2012 – http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2012/05/10/148433/cuba-embargo-could-threaten-oil.html~~%23.UaoUWpyADq0

The 50-year-old U.S. embargo of Cuba is getting

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in advance the kind of technologies that would be required," Reilly said.

====Spills destroy a major biodiversity hotspot ====

\*\*Almeida 12\*\*

Rob Almeida is Partner/CMO at gCaptain. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1999 with a B.S in Naval Architecture and spent 6.5 years on active duty as a Surface Warfare Officer. He worked for a year as a Roughneck/Rig Manager trainee on board the drillship Discoverer Americas. May 18^^th^^ – http://gcaptain.com/drilling-cuba-embargo-badly/

In short however, Cuba~’s access to containment systems, offshore technology, and spill

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oil spill could inflict unprecedented environmental devastation if not planned for in advance.

====The Carribean is key to global biodiversity ====

\*\*CEPF 10\*\*

(quoting Mittermeier — the same author that establishes the "hotspot" thesis and writes our impact ev. , Dr. Russell Alan Mittermeier is a primatologist, herpetologist and biological anthropologist. He holds Ph.D. from Harvard in Biological Anthropology and serves as an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. CEPF is the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – "Ecosystem Profile: THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT" – Prepared by: BirdLife International¶ in collaboration with:¶ Durrell Wildlife Conservation¶ Trust / Bath University¶ The New York Botanical Garden¶ and with the technical support of:¶ Conservation International-Center¶ for Applied Biodiversity Science; assistance for this report was offered by 100 international and non-profit organizations. Jan 15^^th^^ – http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Final\_Caribbean\_EP.pdf)

The Caribbean Islands Hotspot is one of the world~’s greatest centers of biodiversity and¶

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species amounting to at least 2 percent of the world~’s total¶ species.

====Biodiversity solves extinction – food crises and genetic irreplaceability ====

\*\*Mittermeier 11\*\*

(et al, Dr. Russell Alan Mittermeier is a primatologist, herpetologist and biological anthropologist. He holds Ph.D. from Harvard in Biological Anthropology and serves as an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has conducted fieldwork for over 30 years on three continents and in more than 20 countries in mainly tropical locations. He is the President of Conservation International and he is considered an expert on biological diversity. Mittermeier has formally discovered several monkey species. From Chapter One of the book Biodiversity Hotspots – F.E. Zachos and J.C. Habel (eds.), DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-20992-5\_1, ~~%23 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2011. This evidence also internally references Norman Myers, a very famous British environmentalist specialising in biodiversity. available at: http://www.academia.edu/1536096/Global\_biodiversity\_conservation\_the\_critical\_role\_of\_hotspots)

Extinction is the gravest consequence of the biodiversity crisis, since it is¶ irreversible

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than 30% of original vegetation remaining" criterion to a genuine hotspot.

====Most qualified ev proves the Florida Keys is a unique environment – endangered species make it key to biodiversity====

\*\*Nerurkar and Sullivan 11 \*\*

Neelesh Nerurkar, Specialist in Energy Policy, and Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, Congressional Research Service, 2011, "Cuba~’s Offshore Oil Development: Background and U.S. Policy Considerations," http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41522.pdf

The Florida Keys and adjacent areas comprise diverse and interrelated marine systems. The Florida

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life to the survival and reproductive success of marine birds and mammals.44

====Tolerating the destruction of the environment saps us of our humanity—it makes nuclear war and human extinction inevitable.====

Murray Bookchin, co-founder of the Institute of Social Ecology, 1987 ("An Appeal For Social and Psychological Sanity," The Modern Crisis, Published by Black Rose Books Ltd., ISBN 0920057624, p. 106-108)

Industrially and technologically, we are moving at an ever-accelerating pace toward a

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natural world disempowered of its capacity to reproduce a green and living world.

==Advantage 3 is Cooperation==

====US-Cuban oil cooperation de-escalates existing tensions – spills over to other Latin American countries ====

\*\*Benjamin-Alvarado ~’10\*\*

Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, PhD of Political Science, University of Nebraska, 2010, "Cuba~’s Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation," a Brookings Publication – obtained as an ebook through MSU Electronic Resources – page 3-4

The development of Cuba as an energy partner will not solve America~’s energy problems.

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enhance the environment, conserve energy, and provide improved quality of life."

====Cooperative security engagements check nuclear proliferation throughout Latin America and is a model that checks global proliferation – key to solving material transfers ====

Sanchez 11/16/11 (Alex, Research Fellow @ Council on Hemispheric Affairs "The Unlikely Success: Latin America and Nuclear Weapons" http://wasanchez.blogspot.com/2011/11/unlikely-success-latin-america-and.html)

Nuclear Cooperation Even though Latin American states haven~’t had a nuclear weapons program in decades

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energy, but greater transparency is necessary to maintain inter-state confidence.

====Relations solve nuclear material transfer and warming====

\*\*Shifter 12 \*\*

(Michael is an Adjunct Professor of Latin American Studies at Georgetown University~’s School of Foreign Service. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and writes for the Council~’s journal Foreign Affairs. He serves as the President of Inter-American Dialogue. "Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America," April, IAD Policy Report, http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReportFINAL.pdf)

Cuba, too, poses a significant challenge for relations between the United States and

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consultation and collaboration on a new, more effective approach to the problem.

====Cooperation is key to check terrorist acquisition – that ensures retaliation which escalates====

\*\*Ayson 10\*\*

Robert – Professor of Strategic Studies and Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies: New Zealand at the Victoria University of Wellington – "After a Terrorist Nuclear Attack: Envisaging Catalytic Effects," Studies in Conflict %26 Terrorism, Volume 33, Issue 7, July, obtained via InformaWorld

A terrorist nuclear attack, and even the use of nuclear weapons in response by

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, is further international cooperation on the control of existing fissile material holdings.

====Risk of nuclear terrorism is real and high now– no barriers, no lack of motive, high risks, enormous consequences – NEWEST STUDIES PROVE====

\*\*Bunn et al 10/2\*\*/13 Matthew, Valentin Kuznetsov, Martin B. Malin, Yuri Morozov, Simon Saradzhyan, William H. Tobey, Viktor I. Yesin, and Pavel S. Zolotarev. "Steps to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism." Paper, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, October 2, 2013, Matthew Bunn. Professor of the Practice of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School andCo-Principal Investigator of Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University~’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. • Vice Admiral Valentin Kuznetsov (retired Russian Navy). Senior research fellow at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Senior Military Representative of the Russian Ministry of Defense to NATO from 2002 to 2008. • Martin Malin. Executive Director of the Project on Managing the Atom at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. • Colonel Yuri Morozov (retired Russian Armed Forces). Professor of the Russian Academy of Military Sciences and senior research fellow at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief of department at the Center for Military-Strategic Studies at the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces from 1995 to 2000. • Simon Saradzhyan. Fellow at Harvard University~’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Moscow-based defense and security expert and writer from 1993 to 2008. • William Tobey. Senior fellow at Harvard University~’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism, deputy administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration from 2006 to 2009. • Colonel General Viktor Yesin (retired Russian Armed Forces). Leading research fellow at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and advisor to commander of the Strategic Missile Forces of Russia, chief of staff of the Strategic Missile Forces from 1994 to 1996. • Major General Pavel Zolotarev (retired Russian Armed Forces). Deputy director of the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, head of the Information and Analysis Center of the Russian Ministry of Defense from1993 to 1997, section head - deputy chief of staff of the Defense Council of Russia from 1997 to 1998.http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/23430/steps\_to\_prevent\_nuclear\_terrorism.html

I. Introduction In 2011, Harvard~’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and

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the intention to acquire and use nuclear weapons is as strong as ever.

====Warming Causes Extinction and is anthropogenic – hunger, malnutrition, disease, and water wars====

\*\*McKewon ~’7 \*\*(Elaine, Citing a Report by the IPCC, "IPCC: Global Warming Highway to Extinction", 4-1, http://elainemckewon.wordpress.com/2007/04/01/ipcc-global-warming-highway-to-extinction/)

Climate change is paving a "highway to extinction" which could see billions of

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pollens would also substantially increase, and amphibians would begin to go extinct.

==Solvency – ==

====The Secretary of the Treasury can modify the embargo to allow drilling====

\*\*Huddleston 9\*\* (Vicki Huddleston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Africa at the Department of Defense, visiting fellow at Brookings and co-director of the Brookings Project on U.S. Policy Toward a Cuba in Transition from 2007 to 2009, Carlos Pascual, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, He was vice president and director of Foreign Policy at Brookings from 2006 to 2009, "Use "Smart Power" to Help Cubans," http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2009/02/24-cuba-huddleston)

Executive authority¶ Again and again we hear that the embargo can~’t be changed because

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to live up to international norms of human rights, democracy and transparency.

====Cuba wants US investment—officials and empirics====

\*\*Stephens et al 11\*\* (Sarah, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, "As Cuba plans to drill in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. policy poses needless risks to our national interest," http://democracyinamericas.org/pdfs/Cuba\_Drilling\_and\_US\_Policy.pdf)

6. Cuba would welcome U.S. investment.¶ At MINCEX, the

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interest, due to the embargo, and Cuba looked for partners elsewhere.

====The plan allows for US-Cuban oil cooperation====

\*\*Benjamin 10\*\* – Jonathan Benjamin-Alvadaro, Report for the Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, PhD, Professor of Political Science at University of Nebraska at Omaha, Director of the Intelligence Community Centers of Academic Excellence Program at UNO, Treasurer of the American Political Science Association, 2010, Brookings Institution book, "Cuba~’s Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation"

Conclusion and Recommendations

Undoubtedly, after fifty years of enmity, there is a significant lack of trust

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important to those crafting future policy and making changes in the policymaking milieu.

====Castro JUST MET with Russia over oil – now is key to act====

\*\*Global Post 11-25\*\* (Global Post; November 25, 2013; Raul Castro meets with Russian oil company boss; http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/131125/raul-castro-meets-russian-oil-company-boss)

President Raul Castro held talks with the CEO of Russian oil giant Rosneft about investing

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billion barrels, though no commercially viable deposits have been found so far.