# 1AC Lakeland---Lex LiMe

### Plan

#### The United States federal government should substantially increase joint oil cooperation towards Cuba.

### Spills

#### Contention 1 is Spills

#### Cuban drilling is inevitable but dangerous without US help, a spill would spread to Cuban and US ecosystems and collapse regional hotspots

Gibson 1/21 (William E. Gibson, Sun-Sentinel's Washington bureau chief for 25 years and studied journalism at the University of Kansas and Columbia University, January 21 2014, "Cuba presses ahead on offshore oil drilling", http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2014-01-21/news/fl-bob-graham-cuba-drilling-20140120\_1\_oil-drilling-cuban-waters-major-oil-spill)

WASHINGTON — Cuban officials are preparing to resume offshore oil drilling in deep waters as

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and inlets to protect mangroves and hatching waters for fish and other wildlife.

#### Now current impediments to US-Cuban oil cooperation destroy spill response – three reasons:

#### a) Company-specific permits and licenses can’t solve – companies won’t apply and even if they did response time is too slow

Reilly and Cayten 12(William K. AND Megan, "Why the U.S. should work with Cuba on oil drilling," 2/17/12, http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2012-02-17/opinions/35445244\_1\_blowout-preventer-scarabeo-deepwater-horizon)//AM

The U.S. government can, and should, make available the resources

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a clear signal from the executive branch in order to move forward.¶ s

#### b) Absent changes in US policy, the Coast Guard and US Companies can’t use expertise and specially designed equipment, only a rapid response with US expertise can prevent spills

Bert and Clayton 12 (Captain Melissa –2011-2012 Military Fellow, U.S. Coast Guard, and Blake – Fellow for Energy and National Security, “Addressing the Risk of a Cuban Oil Spill”, March, http://www.cfr.org/cuba/addressing-risk-cuban-oil-spill/p27515)

Defending U.S. Interests An oil well blowout in Cuban waters would almost

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the United States risks a second Deepwater Horizon, this time from Cuba.

#### c) Transparency - Even if limited licenses already granted, lack of transparency thwarts fast response.

Peterson, Whittle, and Rader, ’12 – Assoc. at California Environmental Associates, Environmental Defense Fund's Cuba program director, and (Emily A., Daniel J., and Douglas N., “Bridging the Gulf Finding Common Ground on Environmental and Safety Preparedness for Offshore Oil and Gas in Cuba,” Environmental Defense Fund, http://www.macfound.org/media/article\_pdfs/Bridging\_the\_Gulf.pdf

Without immediate access to a full range of U.S. resources and technology

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joint U.S.-Cuban oil spill response in Cuban waters.6’

#### Cuban oil spills threatens the most biodiverse area in the region—ONLY lifting sanctions can prevent and contain a spill

Almeida, 12 http://gcaptain.com/drilling-cuba-embargo-badly/?46322 Drilling Off Cuba, and How the Embargo Could be Very Costly for the US BY ROB ALMEIDA ON MAY 18, 2012

Prior to commencing drilling operations, Repsol contracted Helix Energy Solutions Group to provide immediate

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

#### Caribbean biodiversity 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 15th– <http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Final_Caribbean_EP.pdf>)

#### The Caribbean Islands Hotspot is one of the  world’s greatest centers of biodiversity and¶ endemism, yet its biodiversity and the natural¶ services it provides are highly threatened. Although¶ the islands have protected areas systems, most ar¶ e inadequately managed and important areas lack¶protection. This strategy will ensure that CEPF¶ funds are employed in the most effective manner¶ and generate significant conservation results that¶ not only complement the actions of other¶ stakeholders but also enable significant expansion¶ of strategic conservation for the benefit of all.¶ Everyone depends on Earth’s ecosystems and their life-sustaining benefits, such as clean air,¶ fresh water and healthy soils. Founded in 2000,¶ the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)¶ has become a global leader in en¶ abling civil society to participate in and benefit from conserving¶ some of the world’s most critical ecosystems. C¶ EPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de¶ Développement, Conservation International, the Gl¶ obal Environment Facility, the Government of¶Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. As one of the¶ founding partners, Conservation International ad¶ ministers the global program through a CEPF¶ Secretariat.¶ CEPF provides grants for nongovern¶ mental and other private organizations to help protect¶ biodiversity hotspots, Earth’s most biologically¶ rich and threatened areas. The convergence of¶ critical areas for conservation with millions¶ of people who are impoverished and highly¶ dependent on healthy ecosystems is more ev¶ ident in the hotspots than anywhere else.¶ CEPF is unique among funding mechanisms in th¶ at it focuses on biological areas rather than¶ political boundaries and examines conservation th¶ reats on a landscape-scale basis. A fundamental¶ purpose of CEPF is to ensure that civil society is¶engaged in efforts to conserve biodiversity in¶ the hotspots, and to this end, CEPF provides ci¶ vil society with an agile and flexible funding¶ mechanism complementing funding currently¶ available to government agencies.¶ CEPF promotes working alliances among commun¶ ity groups, nongovernmental organizations¶(NGOs), government, academic institutions and¶ the private sector, combining unique capacities¶ and eliminating duplication of efforts for a¶ comprehensive approach to conservation. CEPF¶ targets trans-boundary cooperation for areas rich of¶ biological value that straddle national borders¶ or in areas where a regional approach may be more effective than a national approach.¶ A recent, updated analysis reveals the existence of¶ 34 biodiversity hotspots, each holding at least¶ 1,500 endemic plant species, and having lost at¶ least 70 percent of its original habitat extent¶ (Mittermeier¶ et al¶ . 2005). The Caribbean islands qualify  as one of these global biodiversity¶ hotspots by virtue of their high endemicity and high degree of threat.¶ The Caribbean Islands Hotspot is exceptionally important for global biodiversityconservation.¶ The hotspot includes important ecosystems, fro¶ m montane cloud forests to coral reefs, and¶ supports populations of unique species amounting to at least 2 percent of the world’s total¶ species

#### Losing species in *specific hotspots* checks extinction. Key to *agriculture* and *medicine*

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, # 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.

#### Biodiversity loss causes extinction

Coyne and Hoekstra, 07 (Jerry Coyne, professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago AND Hopi Hoekstra, Associate Professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, September 24 2007, “The Greatest Dying,” 9/24, http://www.truthout.org/article/jerry-coyne-and-hopi-e-hoekstra-the-greatest-dying)

Aside from the Great Dying, there have been four other mass extinctions, all

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just another Great Dying, but perhaps the greatest dying of them all.

#### There's an invisible threshold - resiliency isn't sufficient

Craig, 2003, Associate Professor of Law, Indiana U School Law, McGeorge Law Review, 34 McGeorge L. Rev. 155 Lexis

Biodiversity and ecosystem function arguments for conserving marine ecosystems also exist, just as they

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kill ourselves, and we will take most of the biosphere with us.

### Relations

#### Contention 2 is Relations

#### Scenario 1 is Russia:

#### Russia is seeking to increase military ties with Cuba --- influence is in limbo because of the death of Chavez and imminent retirement of Castro --- Russia would place cruise missiles and boost electronic spying capability

Gertz 13 (Bill Gertz - national security columnist for The Washington Times and senior editor at The Washington Free Beacon, The Washington Times, “Inside the Ring: Russia boosts Cuba ties” Wednesday, July 31, 2013,http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/31/inside-the-ring-russia-boosts-cuba-ties/?page=all

The Russian military recently dispatched a guided-missile warship to Cuba as part of

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signs that the Russians want to return to Lourdes for more electronic spying.

#### That causes war --- a lack of communication between the two power houses allows escalation --- relations determine influence

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."

#### The plan is key to US-Cuban energy cooperation---solves US-Cuba relations

Benjamin-Alvadaro 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.

#### The plan is critical to reverse Russian influence indefinitely.

Bloomberg, 12/11/13(Leonid Bershidsky, an editor and novelist, is a Bloomberg View contributor, “Obama’s Handshake Trumps Putin’s Money in Cuba,” 12/11/13, http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-11/obama-s-handshake-trumps-putin-s-money-in-cuba.html)

Are the 1950s coming back? The U.S. and Russia appear to

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S. does or risk forever losing its tenuous foothold in the tropics.

#### Our argument is not that Russia wants to attack, rather that US policymakers will perceive a threat, and miscalculate accordingly

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."

#### Taking steps to reduce the probability of war is key --- the plan is the only way to deal with dogmatic policy makers on the hill

Baum ‘12 (Seth Baum, Executive Director of the Global Catastrophic Risk Institute,

Nuclear War Group Discusses Ongoing Risk Of US-Russia Nuclear War, 12/30/2012, Global Catastrophic Risk Institute,http://gcrinstitute.org/nuclear-war-group-discusses-ongoing-risk-of-us-russia-nuclear-war/)

The key statistic here is the probability of US-Russia nuclear war per unit

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Putin’s concerns about NATO plans for a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe.

#### US-Russia nuclear miscalc over external crises is likely—risks extinction

Barrett et al. 13(Anthony M. Barrett- Global Catastrophic Risk Institute, Seth D. Baum- Center for Research on Environmental Decisions, Columbia University, Kelly R. Hostetler- Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University, 2013, “Analyzing and Reducing the Risks of Inadvertent Nuclear War Between the United States and Russia”, http://sethbaum.com/ac/fc\_NuclearWar.pdf)

War involving significant fractions of the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals,

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one or both nations more likely to misinterpret¶ events as attacks.16

#### US-Russia war leads to 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.

#### **Scenario 2 is Cuba:**

#### Cuban oil production insufficient now – US tech is key to successfully increase

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 111-12

The authors of chapter 2, Jorge R. Piñón and Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado

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that city’s thermoelectric power plant, local industry, and future petrochemical plants.

#### Oil drilling is key to Cuban economy

Hoffman 12 [Karen Hoffman, Hoffman is a research analyst for environmental studies, 3/15/12, “Cuba’s Gulf of Mexico Oil Exploration Makes Strange Bedfellows,” http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/cubas\_gulf\_of\_mexico\_oil\_exploration\_makes\_strange\_bedfellows/]

Between North Cuba and South Florida lie the narrow Florida Straits — a channel of

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Brazilian and Russian state oil companies for oil exploration rights off its north shore

#### Cuban economic collapse distracts the U.S. from critical hotspots

Gorrell, 5 **-** Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, paper submitted for the USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT (Tim, “CUBA: THE NEXT UNANTICIPATED ANTICIPATED STRATEGIC CRISIS?” <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA433074>

Regardless of the succession, under the current U.S. policy, Cuba’s

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in an effort to facilitate a manageable transition to post-Castro Cuba?

#### Those hotspots escalate

David Bosco (a senior editor at Foreign Policy magazine) July 2006 “Forum: Keeping an eye peeled for World War III” <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/06211/709477-109.stm_>

¶ The understanding that small but violent acts can spark global conflagration is etched into

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not even a hint that France, Russia or China would respond militarily.

### Solvency

#### Contention 3 is Solvency

#### The plan doesn't lift the entire embargo - only specific energy provisions

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 122

U.S. cooperation with Cuba in energy just may create an opportunity for

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as it has in the case of food and medicine sales to Cuba.

#### Cuba says yes- the plan is in Cuba’s economic interest

CDA 09 (The Center for Democracy In the Americas, an independent non-profit committed to the development of better US policy towards and relations with the Americas, “21st Century Cuba: As Cuba plans to drill in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. policy poses needless risks to our national interest”, democracyinamericas.org, February 2011, <http://democracyinamericas.org/pdfs/Cuba_Drilling_and_US_Policy.pdf>)

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

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

#### Lifting the embargo improves hemispheric dialogue

Meyer 4/8/13 (Peter, CRS Analyst in Latin America Affairs, “Organization of American States: Background and Issues for Congress”, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=12&ved=0CDgQFjABOAo&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hsdl.org%2F%3Fview%26did%3D735022&ei=6RcaUsTSDMqT2QWrvYFI&usg=AFQjCNEJiXMS8Gf1AQ19Y\_PlL5Nj\_fXEGA&sig2=qNsFfyBS3N6r0sCguR\_JAw)

Policy Considerations ¶ Since the early 1960s, U.S. policy toward Cuba

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could send a signal that their commitment to democracy is less than absolute.

#### Plan is *effective*, *topical*, and *US firms would say “yes”*.

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 125-26)

There are numerous areas in the energy sector in which the United States and Cuba

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changes in the Cuban embargo so that this type of engagement can occur.

#### Certainty is key

Hamilton 12 writer for Freedom Works (Amelia Hamilton, 8/23/12 “Government Regulation Slowing Energy Jobs and Economic Growth”, <http://www.freedomworks.org/blog/ameliahamilton/government-regulation-slowing-energy-jobs-and-econ>)

Kathleen Sgamma of The Western Energy Alliance testified earlier this month before the House Energy

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a detrimental effect on investment in the economy and investment in American workers.”