## Plan

#### Plan: The United States federal government should normalize hydrocarbon cooperation toward Cuba.

## Environment

#### **Contention One is the Environment**

**Cuban oil drilling is inevitable – the embargo locks-out US safety experts**

**LaGesse 12**

David LaGesse¶ reporter, with recent articles that have appeared in National Geographic, Money, and most frequently in U.S. News & 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.

#### Embargo fails and stops pro-active approach to spills

**Helman 11**

Christopher Helman – Forbes Staff: Southwest Bureau covering Houston, the US energy capital – Forbes – "U.S. Should Drop Cuba Embargo For Oil Exploration" – December 12th – http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2011/12/12/u-s-should-drop-cuba-embargo-for-oil-exploration/

In a few months Spanish oil company Repsol will start drilling for oil off the

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its people and scrounge for spare parts from the rest of the world.

#### Status quo fails for all tech – 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 18th – 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#.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.

#### Plan is key to proactive response – increased reaction time and US experts

Zakaria 11

Fareed Rafiq Zakaria is a journalist and author. From 2000 to 2010, he was a columnist for Newsweek and editor of Newsweek International. In 2010 he became editor-at-large of Time. He is the host of CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS, Global Public Square. He is also a frequent commentator and author about issues related to international relations, trade, and American foreign policy – “Why our Cuba embargo could lead to another Gulf oil disaster” – CNN: Global Public Square Blogs – 9-19-11 – http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2011/09/19/why-our-cuba-policy-could-lead-to-another-gulf-oil-spill/

Can you remember what explosive crisis America and the world was fixated on last summer

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Cuban people, keep them impoverished and cut them off from the world.

#### Spills spread and kill ecosystems, destroying regional biodiversity

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 18th – 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.

#### Extinction

Clark and Downes 6

Dana Clark, Center for International Environmental Law, and David Downes, US Interior Dept. Policy Analysis Senior Trade Advisor, 2006, What price biodiversity?, http://www.ciel.org/Publications/summary.html

Biodiversity is the diversity of life on earth, on which we depend for our

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we lose the opportunity for mental or spiritual rejuvenation through contact with nature.

#### There’s an invisible threshold – resiliency doesn’t apply

Craig 11 (Robin Kundis Craig, Attorneys’ Title Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida, 12/20/11 “Legal Remedies for Deep Marine Oil Spills and Long-Term Ecological Resilience: A Match Made in Hell” <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1906839>)

What would happen instead if we incorporated full resilience theory into our laws? As

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actions do to the ecosystems that we both impact and depend upon.185

#### No resiliency in the Gulf

Craig 11 – Robin Kundis Craig, Attorneys’ Title Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida, December 20th, 2011, "Legal Remedies for Deep Marine Oil Spills and Long-Term Ecological Resilience: A Match Made in Hell," lawreview.byu.edu/articles/1326405133\_03craig.fin.pdf

Ecological resilience and resilience theory acknowledge that ecosystems are dynamic—not, as prior

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oil spill in U.S. waters, however, suggests otherwise.

## Relations

**Plan shores up US-Cuban relations—that solves US influence in Latin America, drug trafficking, and stops Chinese encroachment**

**Benjamin-Alvadaro 6** (Jonathan, 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, “The Current Status and Future Prospects for Oil Exploration in Cuba: A Special,” http://cri.fiu.edu/research/commissioned-reports/oil-cuba-alvarado.pdf)

Given that there are no formal diplomatic of economic relations between the governments of the

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circumstances but have well-served the commercial interests of all parties involved.

**Scenario One is China**

**Chavez’s death means now is key to solve Cuban and hemispheric relations**

**Tisdall 3-5 –** Simon Tisdall, writer for the Guardian, March 5th, 2013, "Death of Hugo Chávez brings chance of fresh start for US and Latin America" [www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/05/hugo-chavez-dead-us-latin-america/print](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/05/hugo-chavez-dead-us-latin-america/print)

Hugo Chávez's departure furnishes Barack Obama with an opportunity to repair US ties with Venezuela

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needs rapprochement with Washington to advance his own reform agenda," Sweig said.

**Now is key--China is shoring up influence**

**Boston Globe 2/9** “Cuba’s reforms pave way for new US policy, too”, 2013, http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2013/02/09/cuba-reform-create-opportunity-drag-policy-into-century/xER2NTTXGsxdLej0miHwFM/story.html

Relations between the United States and Cuba have been stuck since the United States imposed

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signals that the timing is ripe for a new diplomatic agenda with Cuba.

**Cuban drilling is key---China is using it to expand ties and isolate Taiwan**

**Luko 11** James – Served in Washington DC with the National Council For Soviet East European Research, the Smithsonian Institute and two years as an analyst with the Canadian Department of National Defence, “China's Moves on Cuba Need to Be Stopped”, 6/29, http://www.nolanchart.com/article8774-chinas-moves-on-cuba-need-to-be-stopped.html

The Red Dragon takes another wide step of not only flexing its muscles in Asia

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the almost 900,000 Cubans living in Florida alone! [4]

**Chinese influence in Latin America causes Taiwan war**

**Fergusson 12** Robbie, Researcher at Royal Society for the Arts, Featured Contributor at International Business Times, Former Conference & Research Assistant at Security Watch, Former Researcher at University College London, Master of Science, China in the International Arena, The University of Glasgow, “The Chinese Challenge to the Monroe Doctrine,” http://www.e-ir.info/2012/07/23/does-chinese-growth-in-latin-america-threaten-american-interests/

Taiwan – domestic, or foreign policy?¶ China’s goals in the region amount to

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allow the PRC to conclude a settlement on Taiwan, perhaps by force.

**Taiwan crisis is likely by the end of this year---draws in the U.S.**

**Mazza 1/3** Michael, research fellow in foreign and defense policy at the American Enterprise Institute, 1/3/13, “Four Surprises That Could Rock Asia in 2013,” http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/01/03/four\_surprises\_that\_could\_rock\_asia\_in\_2012?page=full

Since President Ma Ying-jeou came to power in 2008, Taipei and Beijing

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ally -- could throw U.S.-China relations into a tailspin.

**Taiwan escalates and goes nuclear---no defense**

**Lowther 3/16** William, Taipei Times, citing a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, 3/16/13, “Taiwan could spark nuclear war: report,” <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2013/03/16/2003557211>

Taiwan is the most likely potential crisis that could trigger a nuclear war between China

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arsenals, such a conflict would be tremendously dangerous and quite possibly devastating.”

**Scenario Two is Terror**

#### Now key for US-Latin American ties – permanent collapse coming

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)

If the United States and Latin America do not make the effort now, the

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wellbeing. It is time to seize the moment and overhaul hemispheric relations.

#### Cuba is key to hemispheric relations – specifically coop on nuke material transfer

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.

#### Terrorism leads to extinction

Hellman 8 [Martin E. Hellman, emeritus prof of engineering @ Stanford, “Risk Analysis of Nuclear Deterrence” SPRING 2008 THE BENT OF TAU BETA PI, http://www.nuclearrisk.org/paper.pdf]

The threat of nuclear terrorism looms much larger in the public’s mind than the threat

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and assume that preventing World War III is a necessity—not an option

**Absent plan, Hezbollah will strike US assets**

**Noriega 13**

Roger F. Noriega was ambassador to the Organization of American States from 2001-2003 and assistant secretary of state from 2003-2005. He is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute – TESTIMONY OF AMB. ROGER F. NORIEGA BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, NON-PROLIFERATION AND TRADE – “Hezbollah’s Strategic Shift: A Global Terrorist Threat” – ELIPSES IN ORIGINAL – 1:30 PM, Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/noriega-full-testimony-of-subcommittee-hearing-hezbollahs-strategic-shift-a-global-terrorist-threat/

As I stated before another Congressional subcommittee nearly two years ago, the “Hezbollah

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willing partners—to disrupt and dismantle illicit operations and neutralize unacceptable threats.

**Defense doesn’t apply – Hezbollah’s motivated and has capability**

**Meehan 11**

Patrick Meehan. On the Homeland Security Committee, Meehan chairs the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. “HEZBOLLAH IN LATIN AMERICA—IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY”¶ July 7th, 2011 – http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhrg72255/pdf/CHRG-112hhrg72255.pdf

It is important to remember that before September 11,¶ Hezbollah, not al-

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-¶ rorist network with a ready capacity to act, if so inclined.

## Oil

#### Contention 3 is oil

#### Recent foreign policy blunders trigger a price spike sending shocks through the US economy. We must diversify supply.

Sheffield, 10/24 (Carrie, contributor to Forbes, former Politico, Hill, and Washington Times reporter and Fullbright Scholar, “Obama’s Failed Saudi Relations Could Spike Oil Prices,” <http://www.forbes.com/sites/carriesheffield/2013/10/24/obamas-failed-saudi-relations-could-spike-oil-prices/>)

The Obama administration’s strategic blunders with Syria and Iran have morphed into a diplomatic disaster

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downward spiral that results in pain for the U.S. economy.

#### Most recent studies prove domestic supply can’t insulate the economy.

Hayoun, 10/14 (Massoud, digital news producer/writer for Al Jazeera America, “A recent surge in US oil production won’t ease ties to a volatile market,” <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/10/14/us-economy-to-remaintiedtofluctuatingoilpricesreport.html>)

Even amid the recent surge in oil production, the U.S. economy

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U.S. is still going to be reliant on Canadian output."

#### Economic collapse causes extinction – prefer evidence specific to oil

**Bearden** **2K** (T.T, Director, Association of Distinguished American Scientists, http://www.seaspower.com/EnergyCrisis-Bearden.htm)

History bears out that desperate nations take desperate actions. Prior to the final

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, and perhaps most of the biosphere, at least for many decades.

#### Plan diversifies supply- tons of Cuban oil

Lee 8 (Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute, FOREIGN POLICY, Nov/Dec 2008. Retrieved Apr. 21, 2013 from <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64618/rens-lee/rethinking-the-embargo>)

Another good reason to reevaluate U.S. Cuba policy relates to Cuba's huge

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country, U.S. companies are forced to stand idly by.

## Solvency

**Contention Four is Solvency**

**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.

**Cuba also says yes, spilling into broader coop**

**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 120

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

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the way to establishing much-needed familiarity and confidence across these communities.

#### More evidence that drilling is inevitable—we postdate

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#storylink=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.

**Broad indicts of epistemology don’t take out our impacts—you should weigh specific evidence to get closer to the truth**

**Kratochwil, 08** –professor of international relations – European University Institute, ‘8 (Friedrich, “The Puzzles of Politics,” pg. 200-213)

In what follows, I claim that the shift in focus from “demonstration”

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like advertising agencies, “new and improved” versions of familiar products.