ISSUE: Alien Migration Interdiction - Caribbean Disposition of 19 Haitian migrants interdicted on 28 Oct 91.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: South Florida Congressional Delegation

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: Department of Justice Department of State Numerous Human Rights Special Interest Groups

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND: On the afternoon of Monday, 28 October, the CGC STEADFAST intercepted the 30 foot wooden Haitian S/V MARCO 20 miles NW of Cap de Mol off the NW coast of Haiti. The master of the vessel claimed Haitian registry and said he was enroute to Miami due to the problems in Haiti. There were 19 Haitian nationals aboard the vessel between the age of 13-23, all of whom appeared to be in good health. They claimed to have departed La Gonave 8 days earlier. In accordance with established Alien Migration Interdiction Operation (AMIO) procedures, the people were removed to the safety of the on scene Coast Guard cutter in order for Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to carry out asylum screening interviews. On the evening of 28 October, CGC CAMPBELL, the AMIO cutter, rendezvoused with the CGC STEADFAST and transferred INS agents to start the interviews to determine the status of the migrants. The Haitians remain on CGC STEADFAST.

Over the past three days, INS has been thoroughly interviewing the 19 to determine their status for interagency review. INS in Washington has told the region that they would make the call on the determination. It is anticipated that the determination will be made today (Friday, 1 Nov).
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