

August 31, 1965

Mr. Errol T. Ballanfonte
Field Representative
Cuban Refugee Center
600 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida

Re:

Dear Mr. Ballanfonte:

This is to confirm my conversation with Mr. Stevens T. Renfrow regarding the above captioned individual. As it was explained to Mr. Renfrow, I have been working for the past eighteen months with some of the disabled people from the Bay of Pigs invasion in attempting to vocationally rehabilitate them into employment.

The above captioned individual was put in training to learn English and subsequently was put in a course at Lindsey Hopkins Educational Center to learn basic drafting to be followed by mechanical drafting. His progress has been slow, and for the past year, we have been getting monthly reports from Lindsey Hopkins stating that they wished to drop him because he was only operating at about 25% of the rate of the rest of the class. In letters to Lindsey Hopkins Educational Center we have urged them to give him every chance due to his epileptic condition. Finally, after a year, they have stated that to finish his course of mechanical drafting would take until 1969 at a 25% rate of production and that this was not fair to people who are waiting to get into the course. Also, from this Counselor's standpoint, this means that even if he did complete the course, he would not be able to compete in competitive employment due to his slowness plus the additional handicap of not having his epilepsy under very good control. is further being referred by Dr. Antonio Maceo and myself to the Anti-Convulsive Clinic of the Health Department for follow-up and medical care to control his epilepsy if this is possible.

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Re:

We would like to refer him to you as one whom we consider non-employable. Unable to further train him, we are striking him from our rehabilitation program. With this recent elimination from this group, he has no visible means of support. Attached find certain pertinent information to substantiate what is stated above. If it is possible under your rules and regulations, it would certainly seem advisable, in this instance, to put on the rolls of the Cuban Refugee Center until such time as this program was ended or until it could be proven that he could earn his way in employment.

As you probably know, we are working here with some 25 Cuban refugees in our program of rehabilitation. To my memory, this is the first time one from the Bay of Pigs that has been referred to your agency from us.

I would appreciate a call at FR 7-1531 or a letter to let us know when you have made a decision.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon D. Smith, Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation

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