

**ABBREVIATED MINUTES OF EQUAL TREATMENT COALITION MEETING**

**Thursday, January 15, 1998**

Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center Rectory

Meeting called to Order at +/- 7:25 pm.

1. Minutes of January 8, 1998 Meeting were approved. No objection.

2. Brief update on status of Deferred Enforced Departure (D.E.D.), and the Department of Justice directives on Administrative Closure.

3. Discussion by Steve Forester that employment authorization regulations for D.E.D. eligible Haitians will be published by the end of the month. Ron Churlin is the contact person at the INS Texas Service Center.

4. Presentation by Ira Kurzban, Esq. on the status and strategy to obtain residence:

- Haitian President Preval wrote President Clinton a letter urging Deferred Enforced Departure on Foreign Policy Grounds.

- Current chances of residence for affected class are "very, very, small"

- White House is ambiguous

- Senators are not entirely behind their own Bills

- Ultimate hurdle is in the House of Representatives

- One option is that +/- 11,000 Guantanamo Haitians may be eligible to apply for a new suspension of deportation.

- Ira projects that only 100-~~1200~~ would qualify and actually obtain relief ←

- Important date in Senate is February 9 or 10 when there is a mark-up scheduled in the Senate Immigration Subcommittee chaired by Spencer Abraham of Michigan. Members of the Committee include Kennedy of Massachusetts, Feinstein of California, Durbin of Illinois.

- It is expected that Senators Graham and Senator Mack of Florida will testify that day. Ira stresses the need to meet with all of these people NOW!

Ira stresses that meetings with all of Florida's Representatives is important. Especially Bill McCollum of Orlando; House Judiciary Chair Henry Hyde of Illinois, Speaker Newt Gingrich.

5. Selection of secretary to record minutes of these meetings was tabled to be brought up as first item of business at meeting on Tuesday January 20, 1998. Neil Kolner (who prepared these and minutes from last week), will not accept appointment.  
PASSED.

6. Motion to form a Finance/Expense Working Group to determine guidelines and to determine their function.

PASSED, unanimously; one abstention.

7. Working Group formed and all interested - meeting at Michael Ray's Office, 155 S Miami Avenue - PHI, Miami, at 4:00 PM Friday, January 16, 1998.

PASSED, unanimously.

**Next meeting: same location: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998 at 7:00 PM PROMPT!**