FN8 See "Speech by Alexander F. Watson, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs before the Cuban American National Foundation" (Oct. 26, 1993) ("Human rights and democracy are two of the pillars of United States foreign policy under the Clinton administration, and are at the core of our policy towards Cuba.").

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*S15466 THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on International Operations, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in regard to the "Free Trade in Ideas Act of 1993", which is contained in Title II, Part E, of your legislation to authorize appropriations for FY 1994 and 1995 for the Department of State.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to affirm the Administration's commitment to the dissemination of information and ideas as a significant element in the promotion of democracy, a central tenet of our foreign policy. If conducted in a manner which safeguards national security, and which does not merely constitute an informational pretext for evasion of the larger financial purposes of economic embargoes, the free flow of ideas and information is also consistent with the maintenance and enforcement of economic embargoes. Indeed, the free flow of information can advance rather than hinder the foreign policy goals which embargoes seek to accomplish.

Accordingly, the Department endorses the underlying objectives of the Free Trade in Ideas Act. Nonetheless, like you, we believe the Administration should retain the authority to control information flow for non-proliferation, anti-terrorism, export control and other highly compelling foreign policy or national security purposes. We also believe that the objectives of your legislation, for the most part, can be achieved through regulation although some statutory clarification of these matters may be useful.

I propose that the Department conduct, on an expedited basis, an inter-agency review of our existing sanctions programs, policies, and legislation to ensure they properly reflect our mutual commitment to the dissemination of information and ideas. We will consult closely with you and your staff during this review. In return, I ask that you agree to withdraw this Title from the bill when it comes before the full committee.

I hope this proposal will be satisfactory to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
WARREN CHRISTOPHER.

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
AUDREY CHAPMAN,