



Cuba Transition Project
Institute For Cuban & Cuban-American Studies
University of Miami



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The Cuba Transition Project (CTP) at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami cordially invites you to attend the seminar

CUBA UNDER RAUL: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES

Sponsored by

**The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania
Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului în România (IICCR)**

and

**The Cuba Transition Project
Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies
University of Miami**

**Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel
Bucharest, Romania**

Thursday, May 28, 2009

CUBA UNDER RAUL: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES SEMINAR PROGRAM

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:45 a.m. **Opening Remarks** - The Honorable Marius Oprea
- 9:00 a.m. **Panel I – Internal Dynamics**
- Moderator: Stejărel Olaru
- Speakers: Dr. Brian Latell - “What is Raul Able/Willing to Do?”
- Ambassador James Cason – “The Human Rights Situation.”
- Pedro Fuentes-Cid, Esq. – “Political Prisoners and Repression.”
- 11:00 a.m. **Panel II - Cuba in the World**
- Moderator: The Honorable Marius Oprea
- Speakers: Dr. Jose Azel – “Cuban Foreign Relations.”
- Ambassador Luis Lauredo– “Is Cuba Ready to Negotiate with the U.S.?”
- Dr. Zoe Petre – “Cuba and Eastern Europe.”
- 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon**
- Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez
- 2:30 p.m. **Panel III- Accelerating Change**
- Moderator: Dr. Jaime Suchlicki
- Speaker: Dr. Jaime Suchlicki - “Scenarios for Change.”
- Roundtable Discussion** - “What’s to be Done?” - All Participants
- 4:30 p.m. **Documentary Presentation “Plantados.”** Testimonies of Cuba’s political prisoners.

For information/reservation please contact the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania - Iulia Vladimirov at julia.vladimirov@iiccr.ro or by phone: +40 728.04.08.69 and Susel Perez at the Cuba Transition Project at: ctp.iccas@miami.edu or by phone: (305) 284-2822.

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Seminar

May 28, 2009

SPEAKERS

Dr. Jose Azel is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS), University of Miami. He was one of the founders of Pediatrix Medical Group, the nation's leading provider of pediatric specialty services. He co-founded Children's Center for Development Behavior. Dr. Azel was an Adjunct Professor of International Business at the School of Business Administration, Department of Management, University of Miami. Azel holds a Ph.D. in International Affairs from the University of Miami.

Ambassador James Cason, President, Center for a Free Cuba, a career Foreign Service Officer with extensive experience in Latin America, was Chief of Mission at the United States Interests Section (USINT) Havana, Cuba, from 2002 to 2005. Previously he worked in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs as Director of Policy, Planning and Coordination. He previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kingston and Tegucigalpa. Mr. Cason also served at U.S. Missions in San Salvador, El Salvador; La Paz, Bolivia; Panama City, Panama; Montevideo, Uruguay; Milan, Italy; Maracaibo, Venezuela; Lisbon, Portugal. His last post was as Ambassador to Paraguay.

Pedro Fuentes-Cid, Esq., Cuban ex-political prisoner who served 16 years in Castro's prisons. Co-founder of the Ex-Club and also of Consejo Presidio Politico Cubano, a union of ex-political prisoners organizations. He is presently the Spokesman of such group and member of its Political Commission. Mr. Fuentes Cid holds a Masters degree in Inter-American Studies and also a Juris Doctor's Degree, both from the University of Miami. He is an Attorney at Law with offices in Coral Gables and Tampa, Florida. Was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor by Romanian Ex-President Emil Constantinescu.

The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, non-resident scholar at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) was Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and co-chair for the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba under the George W. Bush administration. Formerly he was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Kellogg Company.

Dr. Brian Latell is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS). He was a Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University. Dr. Latell served as National Intelligence Officer for Latin America from 1990-1994. His work as a Latin America specialist for the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Intelligence Council began in the 1960s. He was awarded the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Medal. Latell has published extensively on Cuba, Mexico, other Latin America subjects, and on foreign intelligence issues. His latest book is After Fidel: The Inside Story of Castro's Regime and Cuba's Next Leader.

Ambassador Luis Lauredo served as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States as well as U.S. Coordinator for the III Presidential Summit of the Americas held in Quebec in 2001, and Executive Director of the first Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994.

Stejărel Olaru is the Director General of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania, Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului în România (IICCR). Stejărel graduated from the Orthodox Theology Faculty within the University of Bucharest. He also undertook postgraduate studies in political studies within the National Institute of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA). In 2001, he decided to focus on the study of the Securitate and the communist regime in Romania. Has published numerous articles and research papers in various newspapers and magazines centered on recent history issues. He was a publicist for the "Evenimentul Zilei" daily.

Dr. Marius Oprea is the President of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania (IICCR). Marius Oprea was the Prime Minister's counsellor on national security issues (2005-2008). Between 1995 and 1997, Marius Oprea was Senator Constantin Ticu Dumitrescu's personal counsellor in drawing up the law regarding the disclosure of the Securitate. In the interval between 1998 and 2000 he was a counsellor within the Romanian Presidency and also the Head of the Communication Department. In 2004 and 2005 he wrote the leading articles for the *Ziua* daily paper. Marius Oprea is also the author of more than one hundred articles referring to the history of the Securitate, which were published in the written press, broadcasted on *Free Europe Radio Station* or comprised within various collections of studies and academic publications.

Dr. Zoe Petre is professor of History at the Bucharest University. In 1990, she became tenured professor of Ancient History and was elected (1990-1992, 1992-1996) dean of the History Faculty. At the same time, she participated in the founding of the civic organizations *Solidaritatea Universitara* and *Alianta Civica*. In 1992 and 1996, she directed the electoral campaign of the Opposition candidate, Emil CONSTANTINESCU, then Rector of the Bucharest University. When CONSTANTINESCU became President of Romania, professor PETRE followed him as Senior adviser, in charge of the internal and foreign relations. After 2000, she resumed her academic activities, as well as the direction of think-tanks in international affairs (INCOR, *The Bucharest Club* with its international publication, *Revista de Politica Internationala*) and published weekly op-eds in the Romanian press (*Ziua*).

Dr. Jaime Suchlicki is Director, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, and Emilio Bacardi Moreau Professor of History at the University of Miami. He is also editor of "Cuban Affairs," a quarterly electronic journal published by ICCAS, and the author of Cuba: From Columbus to Castro; Mexico: From Montezuma to the Rise of PAN; and of the recently published Breve Historia de Cuba. Dr. Suchlicki is a highly regarded consultant to the public and private sector in the U.S.