

Miami Medical Team Foundation

NOV. 1990

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BULLETIN

Editor: Manuel Alzugaray, M.D.

WHAT IS THE MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM (MMT)

The Miami Medical Team (MMT) is a group of idealistic and well intentioned people that has united under a strong nucleus to fund a non-profit, self financed organization whose goals are geared towards improving the sanitary and medical conditions of those people in the world who are refugees of totalitarian governments. In addition, the MMT also works towards providing relief for a people whose countries have been torn by natural catastrophies, and towards aiding those



AGUACATE HOSPITAL, 1987
Contra Hospital, surgical room. "God is here", the anesthetist, the patient.

people needing to rebuild their lives and stabilize their countries after having been liberated from the claws of totalitarian regimes.

The MMT's central nucleus is composed of Medical Doctors of all specialties, Nurses, Physiotherapists, and Medical Technicians who are regularly moved to areas of "disaster" to carry out a medical program. There are also dozens of "goodwill" people from different organizations that work in logistics in order to classify, pack and ship medical donations. In addition, those people work in transporting and storing these donations.

The funds generated by the MMT are composed of donations from its members. However, we are involved in such big international health operations that we need a broad base of donations, including medications, medical equipment and cash in order to ship medical supplies by air and / or by sea. Our Doctors provide their own air fares as well as accomodations for each trip, and have been doing so for the last eight years. In addition, our Doctors donate the airline tickets, accomodations and food for the nursing and technical personnel traveling abroad on these missions. We are very proud of this handful of men and women and of the work they have done around the world in the name of health, freedom and ultimately the cause of a free Cuba.

MMT REPRESENTING THE CUBAN PEOPLE ON THREE CONTINENTS



EL SALVADOR, OCTOBER 1986.

Earthquake, MMT arriving at 8 pm on the same day of the tragedy. Tomás Regalado (Reporter),
Dr. Alzugaray, Mario Roque de Escobar, salvadorean nurse, Dr. Alexis Abril.

The Castro regime's totalitarian boot has been planted in three continents. Peoples of different Third World nations have suffered the abuses and dictator ship oppression of individual liberties following Fidel Castro's military intervention.

Castro, by no means, represents the spirit of the Cuban people. Rather, the MMT has volunteered to show not only those nations oppressed by Castro, but all nations in the world, the true spirit of the Cuban people. This spirit is as representative of Cuban exiles as it is of those still under Castro's hold.

Consequently, a systematic medical cooperation was established by the President of the MMT, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, in the early 80's, on behalf of the

ever increasing Nicaraguan refugees in Central America. This was done in conjuction with the coordinating efforts of the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters Medical Corps.

This cooperation was established by sending medical teams to the affected areas field hospitals to perform surgeries. These teams would embark on their missions every six to eight weeks. The MMT was also responsible for collecting medical equipment and medicines, and shipping them to Central America when no funding for the refugees and Contras was available. In addition, we were responsible for flying the seriously injured Freedom Fighters to Miami for surgery and then, flying them back to their field hospitals. Since the year 1987 and after

the positive experience in Central America, a group of the MMT members visited Jamba. the capital of Free Angola, to meet with Dr. Jonas Savimbi, President of UNITA and Free Angola, MMT offered UNITA's Ministry of Health both medical and dental cooperation. There was also the establishment of a sea breach between Miami and Free Angola named after Cuban hero, Tofi Babum, who died in exile without seeing his homeland liberated. There was a large shipment of medical equipment and medicines made to UNITA's Ministry of Health. During the year 1988, full contacts were established between the MMT and Ministry of Health of Afghanistan's Interim Government. The MMT offered and delivered to the Mujahideens, those who were opressed by the soviets, a M.A.S.H. hospital, equipped with 50 beds, six tents, and medical supplies for six months. This donation was airlifted to Pakistan by a group of members of the MMT in November of 1989. The total weigh of the shipment was 19 tons, and it was delivered in the name of the free people of Cuba.



NOVEMBER 1989
MMt in Afghanistan, Dr. Alzugaray with xray technician Roger Reyes and register nurse Lazaro Verdasco in desert lands of free terri-

MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM AND POST-CASTRO CUBA

The MMT members have been working hard with people of the Third World. Learning and

simultaneously thrust into the several provinces to help the island's doctors with their

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN, November 1989
Dr. Alzugaray and members of MMT delivering a Cuban flag to Vice Minister of Health of the Interin Government of Afghanistan.

understanding the needs of those nations has been paramount. The MMT hopes to receive an invitation from our brothers and sisters in Cuba to help in the reconstruction of the Health System once Castro is out of power. Years of practical experience have been crucial in articulating a "Health Strategy" to be coordinated with Cuban health officials to satisfy and improve health needs immediately after Castro's down-fall. The MMT's "Health Strategy" will proceed as follows: The MMT groups with their own logistic medical supplies will be

necessities at the moment of national emergency. MMT personnel will take a census of medical needs and diseases in the provinces, especially those diseases needing emergency international reaction in order to prevent any widespread epidemics. The results of this census will be sent to

the proper international organizations. (To this respect, the MMT has been working with the government of President Chamorro in Nicaragua on medical programs, including sending teams to Nicaraguan hospitals to work with the doctors there. This plan of action is quite similar to the one we plan to take to Cuba.) Finally, after the national emergency is over in Cuba, the MMT will be ready to work with the new government in reorganizing and redirecting the health care of Cuba for the Cubans there. As a side note, several members of the MMT are studying the different health care systems of the world's nations in comparison to the Socialist health care system to see if the MMT can deliver to post-Castro Cuba a health care system that would serve as a model to other nations of the world.

ANGOLA, JANUARY 1988
MMT visiting Jamba's General Hospital. Dr.
Alexis Abril, Dr. Cicato, Minister of Health of
UNITA, Dr. Alzugaray and members of medi-





MMT visit Panama. Left to right, Jorge Endara, President Social Security Service, Armando Quirantes, Dr. Mario Soler, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, President Guillermo Endara, Dr. Ramiro Marrero and Dr. Roberto Reyna.



MIAMI, 1988 UNITA President Jonas Savimbi of Angola visit to Miami. Dr. Mario Soler, Dr. Alzugaray.



MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, MARCH 1990 President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Dr. Manuel Alzugaray.



NOVEMBER 1987
Yamales Contra Base. Cuban comedian Guillermo Alvarez
Guedes when touring for Christmas Show, also, Dr. Alzugaray,
comander Enrique Bermudez.

MMT invites peoples of "goodwill" to become members of this group to donate and help collect funds, so that we may project our dreams to those in despair. Write or call for an application for membership. For donations, please send checks or money orders to:

MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM FOUNDATION P.O. Box 145180 CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33114-5180

For medical equipment and medical donations, please call: (305) 858-7992 • (305) 856-7207

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