



HEALTH AND FREEDOM
Non-Profit Organization

Miami Medical Team Foundation

JUNE 1991

BULLETIN

Edited: Manuel Alzugaray, MD

MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM

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We firmly believe in the humanitarian effort we can give to those regions of the world that are throubled by natural disásters or those disásters that are imposed by other men through the use of force.

We believe that we should offer humanitarian help to our brothers in need without taking into account race, color or creed.

We believe that by doing this we are showing these needy people and even those who are not needy, but rather are observing the great heart of the Cuban people despite

the fact that they have remained divided and confused for more than thirty years over an unjust captivity in which they see themselves with their hands tied behind their backs, unable to obtain the liberty they so desperately seek. Despite these setbacks, the Cuban people have nobly assisted many other peoples who have found themselves in similarly deplorable situations.

We are convinced that our work which has spanned almost a decade has touched the hearts of those peoples who will join the Cubans in demanding the liberty of our homeland.



MMT ARRIVING TO MANAGUA - NOV. 1990

Roger Reyes (MMT) XRays Tech, Dr. M. Soler (MMT) Orthopedic, Dr. Manuel Gonzalez (MMT) General Surgeon, Carlos Aquino (MMT), Dr. Ernesto Salmoron (Minister of Health), Mrs. Mireya Gonzalez (MMT), Dr. Suarez Sarmiento (MMT) Urologist, Dr. Paiz (MMT) Dentist, Mrs. Nolga (MMT) Nurse, Dr. M. Alzugaray (Orthopedic), Mario Roque de Escobar (MMT).

NICARAGUA AFTER THE 1990 ELECTIONS:

After the new government of Nicaragua was inaugurated, the Miami Medical Team in conjunction with the Ministries of Health, Social Security and Sports, as well as with representatives of the Medical Corps of the Nicaraguan Resistance, a continuous airlift through Aeronica Airlines has been taking place every two months.

The shipments weigh between 2 and 3 tons at a time. These included medical equipment for hospitals, medicine, clothes and toys for children, and a full Rehabilitation Department for the "Sport Medicine Clinic" for the Ministry of Sports, consisting of a pharmacy, medical library and a rehabilitation center.



M.M.T. IN NICARAGUA - APRIL 1991

Pediatric Clinic at the "City of Children of Father Fabretto, Dr. Santiago and Dr. Perez from Port Charlotte, Fla. - Dr. Arnoldo Aleman, Major of Managua.

Medicine was delivered to the "Contra Clinic" also at Cerro Mombacho (El Tepeyac), in the Department of Granada.

Medicine and medical equipment were delivered to:

- Hospital Manolo Morales, Managua.
- Hospital del Niño, Managua.
- Kilometro 5 Psychiatric Hospital, Managua.
- Regional Hospital of Jinotepe.
- Regional Hospital of Masaya.
- Regional Hospital of Granada.
- Managua Lepra Hospital.



"City of Children", Managua, Nicaragua - Feb. 1991

Distribution of toys, donated by Latin Builders Association of Miami. Nelson Rodríguez (MMT), Carlos Aquino (MMT) M. Alzugaray, MD, M. Soler, MD, Arnoldo Aleman, Major of Managua, Dr. Santiago (MMT).

MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM NEWS

• San José, COSTA RICA

Dr. Daniel Abeledo leaped to liberty in February of 1991. Dr. Abeledo was a member of Castro's Medical Brigade, which is currently working in Nicaragua. In addition, Dr. Abeledo is in Costa Rica with other doctors who have also recently taken asylum. More Cuban doctors are coming every week to freedom.

• Managua, NICARAGUA

A medical strike which began in January of 1991 detained the continuity of the Miami Medical Team program with the Ministry of Public Health. The routine visits every six weeks by medical groups were detained until the activities were reinstated in the Nicaraguan territories.

The Center of "Sports Medicine", a Miami Medical Team project working through the Ministry of Sports in Nicaragua was officially inaugurated this past March 15th. Along with the presence of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Minister of Sports Carlos Garcia, Minister of Social Security Dr. Silvano Matamoros, Minister of Public Health Dr. Ernesto Salmeron, and other personalities, the center was dedicated to Sucre Frech. This center is composed of an area of rehabilitation and physical therapy a medical library and a medical dispensary. In addition, training of Nicaraguan doctors in modern techniques of

Orthopedics and Rehabilitation.

• Miami, Fl. - AUXILIARY

The first social fundraiser of the Miami Medical team's humanitarian programs was a great success. A concert of Cuban music interpreted by Reverend Manuel Rodriguez, Chaplain of the Miami Medical Team.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Marta Soler, President, and Mrs. Conchita Alzugaray, Vice President for their organization and dedication, as well as Father Manuel Rodriguez. We would also like to make a special mention to the Master of Ceremony. The event took place in the Manuel Artime Theater and approximately 350 persons attended said event.

• Miami, Fl. - MAY 19, 1991 "ENCOUNTER WITH CUBA"

In less than two weeks, a Miami Medical Team event to honor the 20th of May, the Cuban Independence Day was organized. This event included a mix of paintings by the artist Teok Carrasco, poems by Raul Guerrero, Cuban folk music and finally, a dinner and dance.

This event was organized by Mrs. Olga Marcos, member of the Miami Medical Team, and Mrs. Conchita Alzugaray, whom we congratulate for their excellent organization despite the little time. The event took place in the "Alcazar Restaurant" in Miami.

TRANSPORTING DONATIONS

ANGOLA:

After the visit to Jamba, Capital of Free Angola, where UNITA has its center of operations, a maritime "bridge" was promised and issued into effect.

Medicine, medical equipment and clothes were shipped from Miami to Jamba via South Africa. These supplies were sent in forty foot containers, each of which were donated. Between 1988 and 1989, a total of five shipments were sent to Jamba. This was put to a halt after a treaty was signed by the United States, the Soviet Union and South Africa to order the removal of Castro's troops from Angola and to have free elections in Namibia.

The aforementioned "bridge" was named "Tofi Babum" in memory of a Cuban patriot. The shipments arrived in the Free Territory of Angola on behalf of the free people of Cuba. One of the shipments include six dentist chairs with all their instruments and a dental laboratory as well.

M.M.T. WAREHOUSE

Donations are classified and packed. One of several shipments to Jonas Savimbi in Angola (1988), Mario Roque Escobar, Nereida Alonso (Nurse), Manuel Pila (Nurse), Eázaro Verdasco (Nurse)

AFGHANISTAN:

The Miami Medical Team made a contribution to the "Mujahideens", the Afghan Freedom Fighters in the name of the free Cubans. We started to collect equipment donated from Miami hospitals as well as from other states. Also, medications to make the hospital independently operational for six months were included in the shipment. In addition, portable x-ray machines with a dark room to develop the films, a dentist chair with all equipment, an operating table, an anesthesia machine, fifty beds, bed pans, sheets, blankets, portable autoclave, a set of surgical instruments, sutures, antibiotics, intravenous solutions, a portable electrical plant, and six tents measuring 36' x 16' each. The total weight of the shipment was 18 tons.

The "Cuban Backing Group to the Afghan Resistance" and its coordinator, Mr. Jose Varona, made the preliminary contacts with the Ministry of Health of the Interim Government of Afghanistan. They accepted the donation and after packing the equipment in crates, were taken in two trucks to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., where it was air lifted to Islamabad, Pakistan, by U.S. Air Force planes through the "McCoulagh Air Lift." We also owe our thanks to Dr. Kermit Veggebert for his help in coordinating the shipment.

Coordinated with the arrival of the Hospital, a M.M.T. group flew to Peshawar, Pakistan to officially deliver the "M.A.S.H." hospital to Dr. Mujadidi, Minister of Health of the Mujahideens.

PANAMA:

After the fall of Manuel Noriega, the Miami Medical Team offered its services to the country through its Panamanian members, Dr. Jose Jaen and Dr. Roberto Reyna. We began our coordinations in conjunction with the Panamanian organization "Help Panama". A preliminary coordinating trip was first taken in January of 1990 by members of the Miami Medical Team and "Help Panama" (Dr. Roberto Reyna, Luis Endara, Nely Maduro, etc.) We were able to discuss the needs of the country and found a group of between 7,000 and 9,000 Cuban refugees in Panama. The Miami Medical Team arranged an airlift by "COPA Airlines" with medicines and supplies that would be delivered to Saint Thomas Hospital in Panama. These supplies would be used for the nation's poor people. Also, we asked the Minister of Health and the Administrator at the Hospital for the free of charge care for Cuban refugees in Panama.

The Air Bridge lasted until October 1990, sending a shipment of half a ton every 6 to 8 weeks.



CHILE AND PERU:

1985-Chile suffered a devastating earthquake. The Miami Medical Team delivered ten tons of medicine and clothes to the General Consul in Miami. These supplies were transported by Lan Chile Airlines.
1986- Peru's Obstetric Children Hospital in Lima was suffering from terrible shortages in medical equipment. As requested by the President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Dade County Medical Association Mrs. Conchita Alzugaray, the Miami Medical Team donated 15 tons of medical equipment, including 30 Fowler beds, x-ray machines, mattresses, surgical instruments, medicine, clothes, etc.

MIAMI MEDICAL TEAMS NEWS:

• Miami Medical Team in Nicaragua - May 2 thru 6, 1991

A team of twenty-eight doctors, nurses and logistics experts visited Nicaragua after the medical strike. Patients were operated on in Jinotepe, Masaya, Granada and Managua.

The group that visited Rivas was not allowed to help the sick people in that area. Dr. Alexis Abril, head of the group, was denied by the hospital administration the opportunity to help the poor in that region. A group from Port Charlotte, Florida including Dr. Luis Serentill, Dr. Omar Perez, Dr. Ramon Santiago, Nurse Juan Acosta, visited Nicaragua.

We visited Hospital "La Trinidad" near Esteli, where the "Contras" are being cared for in addition to the Codesa Center in the same area, where wounded and sick "Contras" are being treated. This area was visited by Drs. Alzugaray, Soler, Perez, and Martinez Campos, who were invited by the Panamerican Organization of Health, which is directing this project.

Toys, clothes and medicine were dispensed to the children of Tepeyac, in Father Fabretto's "City of Children." These donations were made by the "Latin Builders Association" (L.B.A.) from Miami, thanks to the time and dedication of the journalist Benito Alonso, and the Ladies Auxiliary of "A.G.U.E.", through Mirta Rodriguez

• Miami, Fl. - HUNGER STRIKE:

On April 18, 1991, fellow Cubans and former political prisoners, Israel Sanchez, Jose Tomas Blanco, and Ruperto Diaz began a hunger strike in protest against the Kennedy-Kruschev pact. The Miami Medical Team was put on alert to be at the disposition of these people for daily check-ups. The Miami Medical Team doctors that assisted in this deed were Drs. Diego Falcon, Rodolfo Schneer, Teresa Martinez and Manuel Alzugaray. The hunger strike was put to an end on May 19, 1991, when the participants were moved to Coral Gables Hospital and treated accordingly. The care was free of charge, thanks to the intervention of hospital administrator, Rafael Perez.

• DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A new program of the Miami Medical team and the Hospital in Santiago De Los Caballeros just started in May of 1991. This program will coordinate with groups from New York and New Jersey. Dr. "Millo" Ochoa has been very helpful in this coordination.

(More from Santo Domingo in the next issue.)

- TRIP TO POLAND

During the last week of May, 1991, the Miami Medical Team embarked on a journey by invitation of the Polish Senator and Minister, Jerzy Stepian to visit the New Republic of Poland. Visits were made to the Ministers of the Presidency and Health. Visits were also made to Father Popieluski's tomb, and to the Black Virgin of Chestochowa. In addition, we also visited the hospital and Kilcie, where the team worked with Polish doctors and interchanged ideas on how to decentralize medicine in that country, in order to provide better care.

The team visiting Poland included:

M. Alzugaray, M.D.
M. Soler, M.D.
D. Falcon, M.D.
Olga Ferrer, M.D.
Luis Serentill, M.D.
Nereida Alonso, R.N.
Mario Roque de Escobar
Nilo Juri

(More about Poland in our next bulletin...)

• Perú

There are 265 Cubans still living in Pachacamilla, 20 kilometers from Lima, Peru. The Miami Medical Team and "Municipio de Pinar del Rio" are starting an air lift of medicines, clothing, food and toys every two months, to give to those forgotten Cubans some comfort. The donations will be sent also to be used by peruvians living under the same conditions as the Cubans. Ecuatoriana Airlines will airlift the shipments, free of charge. (More about Peru in our next issue...)



M.M.T. IN VARSOVIA, POLAND

MAY 1991

Flowers to Father Popieluzco, killed by Communists.

Nereida Alonso, R.N.

Nilo Juri

Mario Soler, M.D.

Manuel Alzugaray, M.D.

Olga Ferrer, M.D.

Diego Falcon, M.D.

Luis Serentill, M.D.
