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WALTER S. HUNTER LABORATORY OF PSYCHOLOGY • BOX 1853

October 5, 2000

Mr. Peter E. Haiman
1090 Miller Ave
Berkeley, CA 94708-1516

Dear Mr. Haiman:

In early 1999, President Clinton authorized measures designed to ensure the future of the people of Cuba and their children.

“Expansion of people to people contact through two-way exchanges among academics, athletes, scientists, and others... will continue the efforts to reach out to the Cuban people through humanitarian efforts...”

----President Bill Clinton

In support of these efforts, People to People Ambassador Programs is sending a Child Development and Early Education Delegation to Cuba, in February 2001. Delegation members will have the opportunity to study child development facilities and programs, interact with professional colleagues, and observe children in schools, clinics and with their families.

Americans have always had considerable interest in Cuba. The recent experience of Elian, however, has sharpened our fascination with Cuban society, the family, and the lives of children in Cuba. We are especially pleased to be able to travel to Cuba today, and engage professionally with our counterparts in the schools and psychological facilities. We anticipate excellent reciprocity in our contacts.

The delegation will consist of 25-30 professional educators and psychologists from throughout North America. Based on your background, experience, and expertise, I invite you to participate as a delegation member. I hope that you give serious consideration to this invitation, as your participation will greatly enhance the composition of the delegation.

The Preliminary Schedule for the delegation is enclosed. You will note the variety of topics to be discussed; these will be revised as the interests of individual delegates become known. The Ambassador Programs staff and I welcome your suggestions.

Our delegation will convene for a briefing in Nassau, Bahamas on February 9, 2001. Following the overnight briefing, our delegation will depart to Havana, Cienfuegos and Varadero, Cuba, returning to Nassau on February 17, 2001. The estimated cost per delegate or accompanying guest is US \$3490 (delegates are responsible for their transportation to and from Nassau, Bahamas). This includes transportation, all meetings and activities, accommodations, most meals, and substantially all other costs. There will also be a supplemental program of cultural activities, and a separate schedule will be arranged for spouses and accompanying guests who do not wish to attend the professional sessions.

For U.S. citizens, expenses associated with this project may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense under sections 162 and 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if participation is closely related to one's business or occupation. I suggest that you consult with a tax advisor to determine if tax deductibility is applicable to you. As documentation, a journal of the professional activities will be provided to each participant following the delegation's return.

In the next few days, you will receive a letter from Dawn Davis, Director of Professional Programs, People to People Ambassador Programs, outlining the registration procedure and the logistical details of the delegation. Since the size of the delegation will be limited and extensive planning and communication are necessary to organize the delegation, I ask that you communicate promptly your intentions regarding this invitation. In the event that you are unable to participate, your recommendations of suitable replacements are appreciated. Please contact Ms. Becky Schlafman, Program Coordinator, People to People Ambassador Programs, at (800) 669-7882, extension 602, on the West Coast, or by email at beckys@ambassadorprograms.org.

Your participation in this delegation is important. Your experience should impact the children of Cuba and their educational system and, quite possibly, the institutions and facilities where children are cared for. Just as importantly, we expect that the pupils in your own classrooms, and your college students, will be affected and that your own knowledge about child rearing and child development will be enhanced.

Sincerely,



Lewis P. Lipsitt, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Medical Science, and Human Development
Former and Founding Director, Child Study Center
Brown University