

INTERDICTION POLICY DEFENDED

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Body

An officials of the Reagan Administration today **defended** its **policy** of intercepting would-be Haitian immigrants at sea and returning them to Haiti without any administrative or judicial review.

"**Interdiction** at sea is an appropriate and necessary means" of keeping illegal aliens out of the United States, Alan C. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, told the House immigration subcommittee.

Officials of Reagan Administration **defend** its **policy** of intercepting would-be Haitian immigrants at sea and returning them to Haiti

He said that multiple layers of review of decisions to deny Haitians asylum as political refugees had "bogged the whole thing down" and prevented or delayed expulsion of thousands of Haitians who have landed illegally in Florida.

But John Shattuck, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington office, testified that "many bona fide refugees are unlikely to be returned to Haiti for persecution, imprisonment without charge and even death" under the **policy**, which was also strong criticism from immigration lawyers who testified.

The Administration has had a Coast Guard cutter on patrol in international waters near Haiti since Oct. 9 under an agreement with Haiti.

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