

# Reagan Signs Measure Easing Entry to U.S.

The New York Times

December 24, 1987, Thursday, Late City Final Edition

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**Section:** Section B; Page 6, Column 4; National Desk

**Length:** 196 words

**Byline:** AP

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, Dec. 23

## **Body**

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President Reagan has signed legislation that will prevent immigration officials from barring foreigners because of their political beliefs for at least the next 14 months.

The provision, which revises the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, was part of a bill granting the State Department and related agencies more than \$8 billion in spending authority over the next two years.

The bill was signed by Mr. Reagan late Tuesday, after House and Senate conferees had approved a final version.

The McCarran-Walter Act has been used repeatedly to bar entry to certain foreigners because of their associations, political beliefs or statements they might make while in the United States. Among those who have been kept out are Hortensia Allende, the widow of President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile; Bernadette Devlin McAlisky, the Irish political activist; Dario Fo, an Italian playwright, and the Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes.

The new provision extends to foreigners the same constitutional protections granted American citizens in such matters. The changes will expire in March 1989, by which time the House and Senate Judiciary Committees plan to look at the issue again.

## **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** LEGISLATION (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); US PRESIDENTS (79%); APPROVALS (78%); IMMIGRATION (73%); DRAMA LITERATURE (68%)

**Company:** STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

**Organization:** STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

**Person:** RONALD REAGAN (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (92%); CHILE (79%)

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