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SERVICES TO UNACCOMPANIED CUBAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES

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THE right of people to freedom of thought and religious belief has reverberated throughout our society from the days when the early settlers came to our shores to escape a tyranny that was intolerable. The refugees now coming to the United States from Cuba are, in many respects, following this tradition. They are seeking sanctuary because they find life under the present communistic regime impossible. Unlike our early settlers, who were seeking new homes, Cuban refugees hope to return to their own country when this regime changes.

The care of the unaccompanied children taps another tradition in our culture. Several times before in our history as a nation, we have undertaken to care for orphaned or unaccompanied children coming to our shores for refuge. In each instance the Children's Bureau—the first national governmental agency

in the world devoted entirely to promoting the health and welfare of children—has been closely identified with these efforts.

In 1940, as the ravages of war began to disrupt the lives of so many children, the Bureau was one of the prime movers in organizing the Committee for the Care of European Children. The purpose of the Committee was to co-ordinate all the resources available in the United States for the care of the child victims of the war in Europe. The Bureau was asked to set up standards of care and review the qualifications of child-caring agencies in the United States which received and placed in American homes thousands of child refugees from many countries. This effort to help children continued even after the war, when additional thousands of children, most of them adolescents still in the concentration camps

