

LOG OF WALTER POENISCH'S " SWIM FOR PEACE " * CUBA TO U. S. A. 1978

July 11, 1978

- 5:45 P. M. " SWIM FOR PEACE " began in the river at Building 1830 restaurant from Havana, Cuba.
- 7:40 P. M. Walter had 6 oz. of Superade
- 8:27 P. M. Mr. Castro pulled close to the shark-net observing Walter
- 9:37 P. M. Walter had 6 oz. of Superade
- 10:36 P. M. Walter rinsed his mouth with Listermint and had 8 oz. of Dextrose formula.

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- 12:16 A. M. Walter had 8 oz. of Superade. Jim put vasoline across his shoulders and underarms.
- 2:27 A. M. Walter had 7 3/4 oz. of banana and pineapple baby food.
- 3:35 A. M. Had to bring Walter on the boat, he swallowed some salt water, began vomitting and something hit the shark-net, Jim thought it may have been a shark attracted to Walter's vomitting. Gave Walter 4 oz. of dextrose formula and 4 oz. of Superade. Blood pressure 130/82, P = 68, Temp. = 98.4. Put more vasoline and Sundown on him. 4 min. total time out of the water.
- 3:39 A. M. Walter was swimming again.
- 5:15 A. M. 6 oz. of dextrose formula, Listermint rinse. The ocean is extremely rough.
- 6:25 A. M. Walter is nauseous from effects of shark cage motion and high waves. Jim decides to let him swim outside the cage.
- 7:05 A. M. Walter has improved his swimming, signaled a victory sign.
- 7:25 A. M. Jim put a candy mint in Walter's mouth.
- 9:00 A. M. Jim sighted sharks, ordered Walter back in the shark-net. Jim said, they were within 3 Or 4 feet of the net and that they were Tiger sharks.
- 9:20 A. M. Walter had 6 oz. of Superade.
- 10:27 A. M. Portugesse man-of-war sting on Walter's right leg, he was in a great deal of pain. Brought him aboard for treatment of amonia and alcohol solutions. He drank 4 oz. Superade. Jim told him he was mumbling about President Carter during the night.

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- 10:27 A. M. continued
Put vasoline and Sundown on him. Blood pressure 122 / 80, P = 68,
Temp. = 98 degrees.
- 10:32 A. M. Walter is swimming again, outside the shark-net. (When Walter
was on the boat, his arms continued to move in a swimming motion.)
- 11:45 A. M. 4 oz. of Superade, 4 oz. of dextrose water and a candy mint.
- 1:17 P. M. 4 oz. of Superade, 7 3/4 oz. of banana and tapocia baby food.
6 oz. of water and Listermint rinse. His condition is very good.
- 2:45 P. M. 4 oz. of Superade, 4 oz. of dextrose formula.
- 2:50 P. M. Dolphins passed by the net and went along side the boat and played
at the bow.
- 4:20 P. M. 4 oz. mixed fruit baby food, 4 oz. water, 4 oz. Superade and a
candy mint. Walter got back in the shark-net after feeding.
- 6:20 P. M. 6 oz. Superade and 4 oz. dextrose formula.
- 7:00 P. M. Jim sighted 3 or 4 sharks, they seemed to be too inquisitive-
" shot one, didn't know if he killed it.
- 8:10 P. M. 4 oz. Superade, 7 3/4 oz. mixed fruit baby food.
- 9:30 P. M. Walter seems to be very sick, he vomitted. Trying to resist the
effects of nausea, he said, " I'll die before I give up. "
- 10:45 P. M. Walter was stung by more Portugesse men-of-war, must have been
several by the looks of his legs, especially his right. Still
resisting sickness, he drank 4 oz. of warm dextrose formula and
ate a few spoons of mixed fruit baby food. Walter kept mumbling
about Castro and Carter. (His arms kept moving in a swimming
motion.) Put amonia and alcohol on his legs and vasoline
under his arms and across his shoulders and Sundown. Blood pressure
120/68, Pulse = 62, Temp. = 97.6 degrees.
- 10:48 P. M. Walter was swimming again.
- 11:30 P. M. Jim said that Walter is seeing bushes and said that they are hard
to swim through. Jim said, Walter wanted him to get them out of
his way.

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- 12:45 A. M. 6 oz. Superade and 4 oz. warm dextrose formula.
- 1:15 A. M. Jim had to put a U-bolt on the shark-net. Walter doesn't
answer Jim anymore, he seems to be incoherent.
- 2:00 A. M. Walter refuses to drink or eat anymore.

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2:30 A. M. Jim was able to get Walter to drink 8 oz. of Superade.

3:45 A. M. Shark-net was hung in the sand, Jim got Walter out of the net and swam to shore. Walter swam from Cuba to the U. S. A. Jim and Walter swam back to the boat and it was all we could do to get Walter aboard. The swim ended at 4:01 A. M. Walter still extremely sick, we wrapped him in hot towels, etc. and he collapsed into a seemingly painfull sleep.

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