

# SIDEWALK SURVEY

Sentiment on the positive and negative ramifications of the establishment of Tent City in Cayman was evenly divided between the 100 persons polled in a random sampling in downtown George Town. Fifty-three felt Tent City was bad for the country, while forty-seven considered the facility served a useful purpose.

## Sample comments:

- "If I left my country, went to another and people put me in a tent where I was fed and clothed I would be very grateful."
- "Tent City is necessary for the moment; what is needed is a long-term solution or policy dealing with the refugee problem."
- "You've got a difficult situation to deal with because people are not meant to live in cages. It's no wonder they feel frustrated and want to get out."
- "We need a Castro over here to deal with that bloody ungrateful set of people. Better yet, put up some huge posters of Castro on the shores of the three islands, and they'll never land here in the first place."
- "That man called Fidel, he's the only man I see can handle them."
- "Well, the government can't put up everybody in a house, so we don't have much of an alternative, do we?"
- "I feel happy and proud that Cayman has the resources to help less fortunate people during their time of need."
- "I wonder how truthful their stories are sometimes. After all, they sure don't look like they're starving when they come to our shores, do they?"
- "I said from the very beginning it would cause problems. Once the word spread, everybody wanted to come. I say send them back to Cuba."
- "The big mistake the Cubans made is not dealing with the state of affairs in their country. That would eliminate any concern they have about moving to another country."
- "The country is already saturated with foreigners. How can we take in these also?"
- "Cayman was placed in a difficult position. How could we say no under international law? Tent City is the only humanitarian alternative."
- "Tent City is the best way we can deal with the crisis. What I have difficulty dealing with in my own mind is why the Mother Country does not take more responsibility for its operation, and, in fact, for the entire crisis."
- "The English man dump it all on Cayman. That's just like him."
- "I believe if more people tried to see life from the Cuban perspective in Cayman they would be more understanding about the frustration these people are going through. They must have had this fabulous concept of freedom which was certainly altered when they landed here."
- "Tent City has the potential for some serious happenings in this country and we need to be aware of that."
- "Oh yes, they not satisfied. They'll be asking to go to the Hyatt next. What an ungrateful set of people. We are trying our best for them."
- "Let's pause to remember that it's not impossible, even though it sounds unrealistic at the moment, for us to be placed in a situation of need. How would we want others to react to us?"