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"To save Elián's life, Juan Miguel was prepared to give up his own, and to risk the lives of his wife and other son. Yet, he was never willing to betray his Homeland to buy the return of the son he loved so deeply. His conduct has brought him glory and the eternal admiration of his people".

References to the original: [Statement upon decorating Juan Miguel González with the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Order, July 5, 2000](#)

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