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## Protestors gather to watch over Elian

By Alex Veiga  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Elian Gonzalez's father asked for a visa Thursday to come to the United States and take the boy back to Cuba, as dozens of anti-Castro activists linked arms outside the 6-year-old's Miami home, practicing resistance techniques.

Discussions between immigration officials and the boy's Miami relatives, meanwhile, ended Thursday evening without a resolution. The talks were set to resume Monday, Immigration and Naturalization Service officials said.

U.S. immigration officials have demanded that the boy's Miami relatives promise in writing to turn over the boy if they lose in court. The INS had warned that it would revoke Elian's right to stay in the United States unless the relatives signed. But after the meeting, the INS pushed back the deadline for a second time to at least Tuesday.

The Justice Department and

the INS hoped "to continue to move forward on Monday," said Robert Wallis, INS director for the Miami district. "Like the family, we are monitoring developments concerning the possible arrival of [Elian's father] Juan Miguel Gonzalez in the United States."

On the street in front of the house in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood where Elian has been staying with his great-uncle, dozens of demonstrators linked arms and formed two rows.

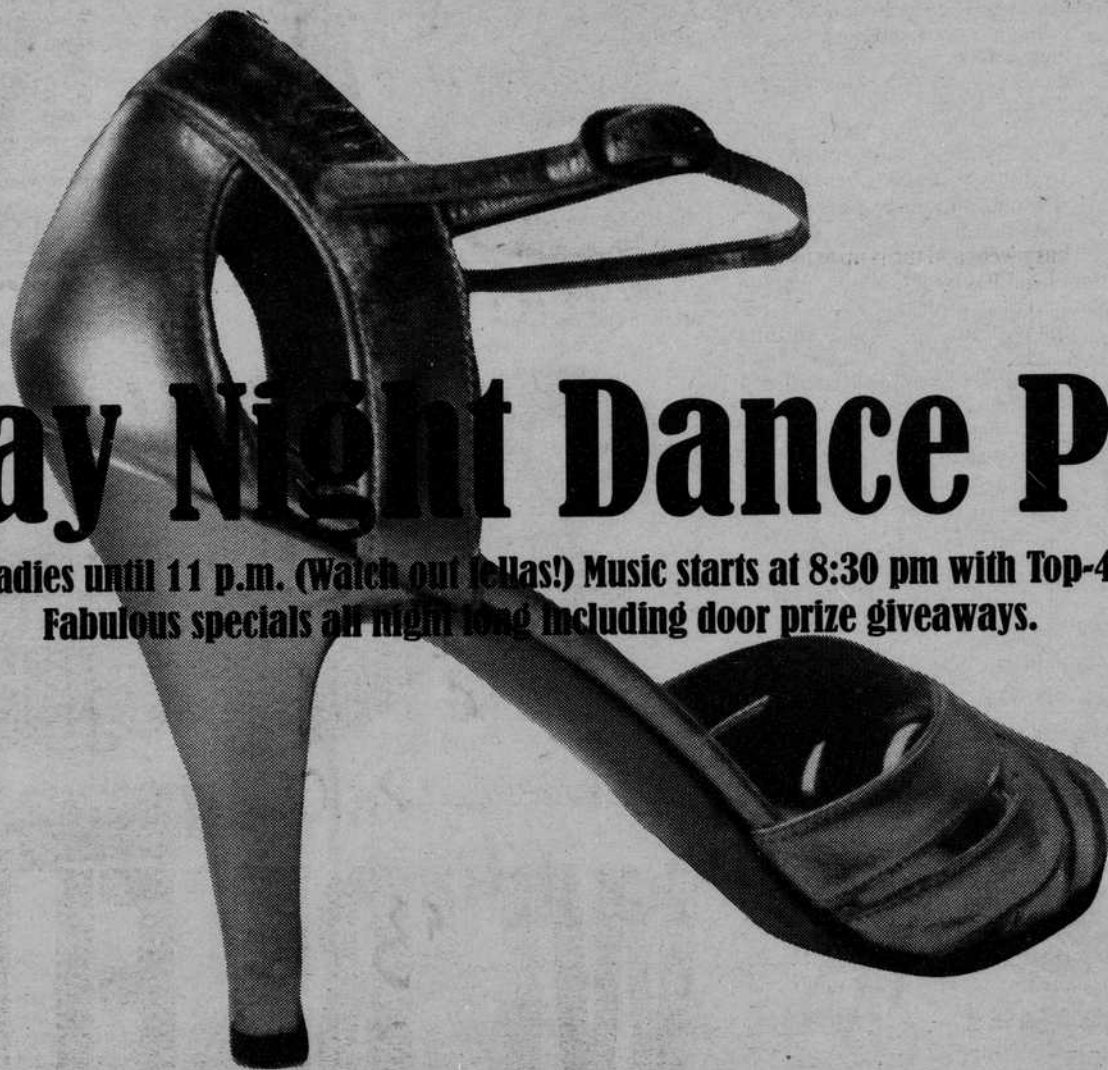
"We will not let Elian's civil rights be violated," said Ramon Saul Sanchez, head of the Democracy Movement, an anti-Castro group.

In another development, Vice President Al Gore broke with the Clinton administration and backed legislation in Congress that would grant permanent resident status to Elian and to his father. If that were to happen, the boy's fate would be decided by the courts and not by the INS.

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