16:00. The Minister of Industry, E. Guevara, and the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mora, held a discussion in A. I. Mikoyan’s residence.

A short record of the conversation between A. I. Mikoyan, E. Guevara, and A. Mora
November 17, 1962

In the second half of the day, A. I. Mikoyan received the Minister of Industry, E. Guevara, and the Minister of Foreign Trade, A. Mora, in his personal residence.

From the Soviet side, the deputy representative of the SCEC [State Committee for Economic Collaboration], A. I. Alikhanov, the advisor for economic questions of the embassy of the USSR in Cuba, N. V. Goldin, the acting trade representative in the Republic of Cuba, V. G. Zadorozhny, and an employee of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, B. [name illegible], took part in the discussion.

After exchanging greetings, E. Guevara said that during yesterday’s conversation in the Ministry of Industry, the question was touched on about the danger of delaying the signing of the Soviet-Cuban Protocol next year, because from the Cuban side it does not give the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade specifications for the goods that Cuba depends on. Having received from you clarification about our duties to the Soviet Union regarding trade operations for this year, this can’t interfere with the signing of the protocol. And so that the Soviet Union is prepared to fulfill this duty in the form of a foreign trade credit in Cuba, we consulted with President Dorticos and decided to come to you with the Minister of Foreign Trade, A. Mora, in order to conclusively settle this question. The specifications are already prepared, and we would like to know if it is better to handle them here or in Moscow.

Having exchanged opinions with the representatives of Soviet foreign trade organizations, A. I. Mikoyan writes E. Guevara that the referenced specifications should be handled by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade in Moscow.

Further conversation was of a general nature and did not include anything of interest to the record, excluding the messages written by E. Guevara before he left relating to the fact that that day there were two overflights of Cuban territory by North American U-2 planes. He also said that this evening he is leaving for military affairs in the Pinar Del Rio Province. The opinion was that he was concerned about the prevailing situation and is awaiting some sort of event.

Translated by Amanda Conrad for the National Security Archive