NOTES re CUBAN TRIP

April 5 9, 1963

On this trip, Donovan reached a firm agreement with Castro for release of the 22 remaining Americans on April 22. The 4 Cubans are to be released at Key West the following day, April 23.

This agreement was reached at a night-long conference beginning at 2:15 and ending at 6:30, Sunday morning. Details of the release followed a long discussion of the possibility of better American-Cuban relations as evidenced by recent Life, Look and Nation articles.

In this conference, and throughout the 24-hour period beginning at midnight Sunday, Castro commented at some length on the following topics:

- guerrilla warfare
- regular military forces
- civilian militia forces
- the revolution, 1956 - 58
- Herbert Mathews
- Morgan, the American
- national parks
- the present Cuban school system
- collective farms
the small farmer (peasant)
climatic-economic conditions (sugar crop)
Secretary McNamara
1964 New York World's Fair
organization of amateur athletics in Cuba
attendance at sports events

At Playa Larga and Playa Giron (2 beaches at the Bay
of Pigs) Castro described the 1961 invasion battle at considerable
length. Specifically he discussed:

his advance information of the invasion
his movements during battle
communications
use of tactical air
antiaircraft defenses
invasion strategy
use of paratroops
access roads and salt marshes

During the day we drove from Varadero on the north coast
across the island, through Matanzas Province, to the Bay of Pigs.

On Castro's boat, escorted by other craft including a PT boat, we
went out into the Bay of Pigs to fish. We returned to shore in the late afternoon and inspected the fishing school now located at Playa Giron where the main battle of the invasion was fought.

On the return trip to Havana late Monday night we viewed a number of workers resorts, new apartments and other new construction.

JEN