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Following is unclassified memorandum of conversation:

Mexican Ambassador called on Secretary September 18 at Secretary's request. After brief discussion Far East trip Lopez Mateos and

expression desire on part Secretary do everything possible assist on President's stops in United States, Secretary turned to discussion

Cuban situation. He said he had little to add on facts he had described

Latin American Ambassadors. In response question he said weapons received by Cuba were normally part of defensive system but of course had offensive

capability if targets came within range, e.g., US aircraft flying outside Cuban territorial waters but within range of ground to air missiles.

He acknowledged weapons did not constitute military threat US and that they would require minimum attention if US had to move into Cuba.

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W. K. Martin

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said US of course had no intention permitting weapons move out of Cuba to other Latin American countries.

Secretary said we had to recognize that Castro regime could not be permitted continue in Hemisphere for extended period because it was incompatible as Foreign Ministers had said at Punta del Este. He said US concerned about Cuban espionage activities, large number of Latins receiving training in Cuba, the furnishing of funds from Cuba for activities in other countries. He noted serious preoccupation of the people in the U.S. and other republics. He said some might consider feelings irrational, but that US Government had to deal with fact this feeling existed. Ambassador said his own experience confirmed to him emotional feeling in US on Cuban issue. He related fact he is unable make speech anywhere without question arising. Secretary said in explaining feeling in US on problem that he had told NATO parliamentarians all money their countries spend on propaganda in US would be wasted so long as ships carrying their flag participated in Cuban trade.

Secretary said US believes there is in fact an extra-continental inter-

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vention in Hemisphere. We believe that Cuba intends export its system to other countries. We consider Castro-Communist activity deeply antagonistic

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not only 1952 Charter but to values and systems of each of the Republics.

He urged Mexico review its position on Cuba and give most solemn consideration

Mexico's own interest, to views of Mexico's neighbors who look to her for

leadership, to Mexico's commitment in Hemisphere, to what Cuba really means to

Mexico and Hemisphere, etc.

Secretary said he did not want to suggest any specific steps to Mexico.

He felt certain these would occur to Mexico as it studied problem. He said

Mexico's neighbors are preoccupied by the large number of their citizens

who are passing through Mexico enroute to Cuba. Fact Mexico being so used

is disturbing to them and they are frustrated in dealing with problem. He

noted Mexican airline provides part of this service. He said US feels that

watch should be kept on Caribbean. American Republics could not afford

secretary. He said he knew Mexico maintained surveillance against

activity from Cuba. He expressed hope that US could be

informally announced publicly. He said he had mentioned

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activities of ~~ambassadors~~ Cuban Embassy and Consular personnel in Mexico. Ambassador referred to strict control which Government maintains at airport as example surveillance over Cuban diplomatic and consular personnel. Secretary said he referred to Cuban diplomatic activities only as point which Mexico might want to consider. Maybe such activities could be controlled by limiting number Cuban personnel in Mexico.

Secretary emphasized again that he was not proposing or asking for any specific action but did want to suggest Mexico earnestly explore what was in its own best interest and that of the Hemisphere. Ambassador inquired whether sense of Secretary's remarks was that Mexico should show it is preoccupied and not indifferent to problem. Secretary hoped Mexico could go further and show that it was deeply concerned. He said Hemisphere leaders had to look forward and see where continuance of present situation would lead. He noted that this is first time that people now living have had to deal with problem vicious form in hemisphere.

Secretary said he thought everything should be done isolate Cuba and was afraid Mexico not conveying impression of solidarity.

Ambassador said that he had not previously been confronted with so difficult and complex problem in US-Mexican relations. He thought it was political and not military problem. He understood Secretary to be urging Mexico consider how it could best establish that it had sense of solidarity with other republics on Cuban issue.

He recalled that AMB had said in meeting with Kennedy that Castro no longer popular figure and not tool of Soviets. Mexico also recognized AMB might be greater trouble for Mexico than U.S. Problem was to find

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solution that would not boomerang. Mexico was limited by own political situation and upcoming Presidential ~~1960~~ election. AIM seeking avoid open fight between extreme left and right. Steps by Mexico on Castro regime therefore would have serious political consequence. Thus AIM had to make concessions first to right then left in order maintain harmony. Noted Mexico's relations with Spain concession to left. Assistant Secretary Martin suggested AIM might consider making concession to right on Cuba.

Secretary said problem for US is not just political or one of public opinion in US or Congress. In real sense it involved future Cuba and Hemisphere. Cuba is first point of confrontation with Soviets in Hemisphere. He noted US has million men on duty outside US with casual ties a weekly occurrence.

Secretary said Soviets investing ~~2000 million~~ ^{large amounts} annually in Cuba. He noted Soviets not investing this for Cuba alone but with thought Cuba bridgehead to rest of Latin America. If American republics could demonstrate that investment will not pay off Soviets might reconsider value of Cuba because Soviets cannot afford such an investment on Cuba alone.

Ambassador inquired as to possibility meeting between Kennedy and Khrushchev ~~and whether~~ and whether Cuba would be discussed. Secretary indicated he thought not because Soviets would link Cuba to Turkey or some other spot. Martin

noted that agreement by US discuss Cuba with Soviets would be in keeping ~~with~~ view that Monroe Doctrine is dead. Khrushchev

END

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