

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

*Sunday*  
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Action  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Control: 2095  
Rec'd: MARCH 4, 1963  
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Info

FROM: MEXICO CITY  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 2240, MARCH 4, NOON

FILE

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

FOR PRESIDENT FROM SALINGER, INFO COPY SECRETARY, BUNDY, DUNGAN, WHITE HOUSE.

FOLLOWING IS REPORT ON 30 MINUTE VISIT WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MATEOS AT HIS HOME THIS MORNING. ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT I EXPRESSED THE GRATITUDE ALM'S SUPPORT US GOVERNMENT DURING OCTOBER CRISIS. ALM SAID HE GOT FEELING THAT SOME IN STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT THINK HE HAD BEEN QUICK ENOUGH IN SUPPORT. I TOLD HIM I WAS NOT AWARE OF SUCH FEELING AND THAT IN ANY EVENT PRESIDENT DID NOT SHARE SUCH FEELING.

ALM THEN STRESSED AT SOME LENGTH THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH HE REGARDS UPCOMING SAN JOSE MEETING. HE SAID AS HE TOLD JFK IN MEXICO CITY LAST YEAR, HE CONSIDERS CENTRAL AMERICA MOST DANGEROUS AREA. SAID COSTA RICA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH ANY KIND OF STABLE ECONOMY AND THE ONLY COUNTRY IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH ANY STABLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE SAID WHAT IS NEEDED IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS MASSIVE US ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN PUBLIC WORKS. HE SAID US ASSISTANCE MUST BE OF SUCH NATURE THAT IT WILL REACH THE PEOPLE. ALM SAID THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN NICARAGUA, EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA, WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW PARTICULARLY DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY. ALM SAID IMAGE OF THE US IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS THE UNITED FRUIT CO. HE SAID THAT IF COMMUNISM WAS GOING TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY IN THIS HEMISPHERE, CENTRAL AMERICA IS THE LIKELY TARGET.

TURNING TO CUBA, ALM SAID THAT OF COURSE PROBLEM THERE IS NOT CUBA BUT SOVIET PRESENCE. HE SAID HIS INFORMATION IS THAT CUBA REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
*State Guidelines*  
By *mm* NARA, Date *12/10*

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-2- 2240, MARCH 4, NOON, FROM MEXICO CITY

WILL HAVE THE WORST SUGAR CROP IN 40 YEARS. HE SAID THIS MAY LEAD TO INTERNAL DISORDER. HE SAID HIS INFORMATION INDICATES A WIDENING BREACH BETWEEN THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CUBANS REGARD AS THE HIGH-HANDED MANNER IN WHICH KHRUSHCHEV TREATED CUBA WHEN HE WITH-DREW WEAPONS. HE SAID THE LENGTHY VISIT OF MIKOYAN TO HABANA WAS AN INDICATION OF THIS FACT. HE SAID HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT WHILE MIKOYAN WAS MEETING WITH CASTRO, CASTRO WOULD LEAVE THESE MEETINGS AND GO TO THE UNIVERSITY AND DENOUNCE MIKOYAN.

I BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN LATIN AMERICA FROM CUBA, BUT EVOKED NO COMMENT FROM ALM. ALM ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO JFK HIS HIGHEST ESTEEM AND FRIENDSHIP AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN THE COMING COSTA RICA MEETING. THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT DURING THE MEETING WAS JUSTO SIERRA, WHO INTERPRETED.

MANN

BAP

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 3/4/63.

NOTE: Handled LD/SS per Mr. Frowick SSO

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