

(EIA)

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HAK:

Subject: Message to Castro

Mankiewicz will be departing for Cuba (via Jamaica) on Thursday, January 21. He asks whether you wish him to carry any special message to Castro.

I have asked Bill Rogers, who has a copy of my memo on the New York talk, to give you an appropriate draft message by this Friday afternoon. When I return on Monday from my deathbed, we can review this together if you wish.

Frank suggests a message which would include the following elements, either oral or written:

- a statement that we have initiated a reduction of travel restrictions on Cuban diplomats in New York. (FYI: We may be able to tell Castro that these restrictions already have been removed.) We are moving ahead as quietly as possible on this and hopefully will have approval from the Justice-State-Defense Committee by the time Frank departs.
- A reference to some easing of our embargo program, specifically in the area of third country exports to Cuba.
- An expression of readiness to begin cultural and sports exchange.
- Orally, an indication that we hope Cuba will attend the Buenos Aires meeting of Foreign Ministers.
- Finally, an illustrative list of possible Cuban actions of interest to us as a quid pro quo. One example would be permission for family visits to and from Cuba.

Comment: I am really not certain whether Mankiewicz ought to bring this kind of message from you to Castro.

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My own recommendation would be for a basic message which notes that we have already expressed our good will to him through the communication we delivered in New York last week.

Beyond this, you may also want seriously to consider adding in Frank's suggestions on mentioning an easing of travel and third country trade restrictions. Concerning his suggestion of a list of Cuban quids for our quo, I believe this is a good idea and one which supports the stress on the same theme in the New York meeting. Clearly, however, his thought on Cuban attendance at the Buenos Aires meeting is totally out of the question.

My final recommendation is that as much as possible we should move the Cuban business out of the Mankiewicz channel and into a Rogers-LSE channel (Rogers for substance; LSE for contacts).

LSE

S:APAdams:bl
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