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Action

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PARIS FOR CINCEUR, JAMES LONDON FOR CINCUSNAVEUR

DEPARTMENT PASS DOD, CINCLANT, POLAD

Foreign Minister asked to see me today and made long friendly exposition on desire GOS to develop even better relations with USG. He said GOS at no time believed USG had any responsibility for attack on Spanish ship even though there had been insinuations in popular Spanish reactions. He expressed appreciation for large dossier preliminary reports from USG related to attack which he had in his hand. In course of exposition, Castiella said that GOS had agreed with USG to remove its shipping from Cuba trade as soon as feasible and that this would be done. He mentioned November and then mumbled something about a period up until April 1965.

Castiella then said that Spanish-US relations would be substantially assisted if our government would cooperate with the GOS to increase probability that another Spanish ship about to depart from Cadiz would reach Cuba safely. He said GOS would provide precise information concerning route of ship and any other data desired by USG.

I assured Foreign Minister that USG fully shares GOS desire for even better relations. I said we had faith in Spanish promises to remove shipping from Cuba trade and that I scarcely needed to say that we would have nothing to do with threats or

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intimidations as insinuated in some quarters. I said that we naturally wished to cooperate with the GOS in every way we can and that I would communicate his wishes to Washington immediately. However, I said it was my understanding that any "patrol" or "surveillance" maintained by my government in the area of Cuba was intended primarily to make sure that weapons and forces dangerous to the security of the United States are not sent to Cuba from the Soviet Union. I said that I did not know that the USG maintains anything that could really be called a naval patrol or a surveillance of merchant shipping, but that we do have aerial surveillance over some parts of Cuba. I said I was making these observations so that Minister would not be disappointed by the degree of cooperation that the USG might be able to provide in response to his request. I was very careful to avoid any comment which could possibly imply that we have control over Cuban exile groups. I gave him list of 7 naval incidents just provided by Department.

Castiella hastened to assure me that he was not requesting anything in the nature of a "guarantee" but only whatever friendly cooperation the USG might be able to lend which would have the effect of giving the GOS a greater feeling of assurance that its ship might reach Cuba. He also mumbled something about 4 or 5 other subsequent sailings.

Since this request was made orally, I recommend that I be authorized to make a very brief and friendly oral reply indicating in very general terms that the USG is naturally desirous of giving every possible cooperation which could avoid the loss of life and property of a friendly nation. (I believe this may prove satisfactory for the purpose, since I believe what Castiella may really have meant was that he wants to feel that we have deterred any exile groups with which we do have any relationship.)

The Minister also alluded to steel pike and implied that this was typical of the kind of cooperative relationships which the GOS wants to promote. After emphasizing that he was in no sense using this as a bargaining measure, he implied that the question of

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a joint announcement as originally planned would fall into place once we reply satisfactorily to his present request.

GP-3.

WOODWARD

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