



# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4  
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By rip, NARA, Date 1-29-96

P 212332Z DEC 67  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0352

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FOLLOWING SUMMARY MEMCON FYI ONLY AND NOFORN. IT IS UNCLEARED  
AND SUBJECT TO REVISION UPON REVIEW.

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR MERRY DEL VAL CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON  
SECRETARY DECEMBER 21. HE HANDED SECRETARY A REPORT PREPARED BY  
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION  
OF THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ADOLFO MARTIN  
GAMERO ON HIS RECENT TALKS WITH FIDEL CASTRO.

2. MERRY DEL VAL INFORMED SECRETARY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER  
CASTIELLA HAD DECIDED TO SEND MARTIN GAMERO TO CUBA TO

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TRANSMIT TO CASTRO THE REMARKS MADE BY THE SECRETARY TO  
CASTIELLA THAT THERE WERE ONLY TWO POINTS WHICH U.S.  
CONSIDERED NONNEGOTIABLE IN ITS POSITION ON CUBA: (A) CUBAN

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INTERVENTION, SUPPORT OF SUBVERSION AND GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, AND (B) SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN CUBA. THE U.S. ON THE OTHER HAND HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN CUBA.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO CASTIELLA EXPLAINING THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT WANT A SPECIAL EMISSARY SENT FROM MADRID, BUT THAT HIS MESSAGE HAD ARRIVED TOO LATE AND THAT, MOREOVER, CASTIELLA BELIEVED THAT THE SPANISH CHARGE'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS CASTRO HAD ERODED AND THAT HE DID NOT COMMAND CASTRO'S ATTENTION.

4. MERRY DEL VAL STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH HE READ FROM MARTIN GAMERO'S REPORT: A) MARTIN GAMERO WAS RECEIVED VERY CORDIALLY; HE HAD THREE AND A HALF HOUR DINNER ALONE WITH CASTRO NOVEMBER 27TH, FOLLOWED BY A SIX-HOUR JEEP RIDE THROUGH COUNTRYSIDE NOVEMBER 28. MARTIN GAMERO UNDERLINED NEED FOR

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GREATEST SECRECY TO WHICH CASTRO READILY AGREED. HE STRESSED THAT SPAIN WAS ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA WHICH HAS HISTORICAL LINKS WITH SPAIN NOTWITHSTANDING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. B) MARTIN GAMERO THEN REPEATED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO CASTIELLA. CASTRO AT FIRST REMAINED SILENT, AS IF SURPRISED. HE THEN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SPAIN'S GOOD OFFICES AND REASSURED MARTIN GAMERO THAT HIS MISSION WOULD BE KEPT SECRET. CASTRO PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO ANALYZE AND STUDY THIS SURPRISING MESSAGE. HE ADDED THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS TO DOUBT SINCERITY OF AMERICANS. HE EMBARKED ON A LONG TIRADE AGAINST U.S., BUT STRESSED THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS PURELY SPONTANEOUS AND COULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A DEFINITE ANSWER WHICH COULD COME ONLY AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MESSAGE. CASTRO LEFT IMPRESSION WITH MARTIN GAMERO THAT INITIATIVE WAS NOT AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED. C) ON OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED, CASTRO DESCRIBED CUBAN RELATIONS WITH CHINA AS SOMEWHAT DETERIORATED. HE SAID THAT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES REMAINED IMPORTANT BUT THAT POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CUBA AND CHINA WAS SIMPLY

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NOT FEASIBLE. D) DESCRIBING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R., CASTRO SMILED AND COMMENTED THAT THE INEVITABLE MOMENT OF DIFFERENCES ARISES EVEN AMONG THE BEST OF FRIENDS. E) CASTRO DECLARED HIS GREAT FRIENDSHIP FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY ALGERIA, WHICH HE CONSIDERED A COUNTRY WITH A GREAT FUTURE. HE ALSO PRAISED NASSER WHOSE SURVIVAL HE FOUND INEXPLICABLE. F) HE REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT DISAPPEARANCE OF CHE GUEVARA, GIVING MARTIN GAMERO IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS STILL EMOTIONALLY UPSET ABOUT GUEVARA'S DEATH.

5. SECRETARY SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY CASTRO SHOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED SINCE PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD OUTLINED PUBLICLY IDENTICAL U.S. POSITION FIVE YEARS AGO. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY HIS APPRECIATION TO THE MINISTER FOR SENDING THIS INTERESTING REPORT WHICH HE WOULD READ CAREFULLY. RUSK

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