

6. Kenworthy in the *New York Times* today reports today that the Secretary informed Dean Rusk of the Administration's decision and discussed the matter with him. According to this report, Rusk was asked whether the Kennedy administration wished to associate itself with the decision and that according to "an informed source" the reply was in the negative. His article, speculating on the factors behind the decision, concludes as follows:

"High State Department officials deliberated most of the day on whether to recommend to Secretary Herter and President Eisenhower a break in relations.

They considered, it was said, whether it was not repeat not better to endure the insults to have some diplomatic observers on the scene.

They also considered whether Premier Castro might follow a break in relations by ordering the surrender of Guantánamo.

Finally, it was said, they considered the humanitarian question of Cuban refugees who have been queuing up before USA Consulate to obtain visas to USA. In the last five months 34,502 have received visas.

These considerations were not repeat not finally regarded as compelling, it was said, for the following reasons: First, Embassy officials now have almost no repeat no contacts with Cuban officials, and their reporting had been otherwise circumscribed.

Second, USA has no repeat no intention of surrendering Guantánamo.

Third, many refugees have been coming in without visas, and could continue to do so even after a break in relations.

The controlling arguments for breaking relations, it was said, were these: First the reduction of the Embassy staff was, as the President said, a culmination "of a long series of harassments, baseless accusations and vilification" that could no repeat no longer be endured.

Second, it would be impossible to operate an embassy effectively with such a small staff.

Third, the Castro action gave USA a long sought opportunity to begin the isolation of Cuba within the hemisphere."

7. Merchant has asked me to see him at 3 p.m. today and I shall seek clarification of the considerations underlying the State Department's action at that time. In this context, it would be helpful to have urgently the text of any public comment that may have been made by Ministers in connection with the White House announcement.

[A.D.P.] HEENEY

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L'ambassadeur au Cuba
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in Cuba
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

LETTER NO. L-10

Havana, January 4, 1961

CANADIAN EYES ONLY. CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference: My telegram No. 2, January 3, 1961.

CUBAN-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

There is a general feeling of disappointment, among those few colleagues I have been able to see, that the United States has at last taken the initiative in breaking relations with Cuba. It seems a pity that Mr. Eisenhower and his advisers, after having patiently endured for more