

462.

DEA/11562-116-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Prime Minister*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], April 6, 1959

## FIDEL CASTRO

The Chambre de Commerce des Jeunes de Montréal have confirmed to us that the Cuban Prime Minister has accepted their invitation to come to Montreal Sunday, April 26, not on Saturday, April 18, as previously envisaged.

It has also been confirmed that, in Washington, Acting Secretary of State Herter will invite Sr. Fidel Castro for luncheon (about a dozen guests). The State Department Press Officer has also let it be known that Sr. Castro would be welcomed "as a distinguished leader of the Cuban nation towards which the United States has had friendly and close relations."

If you agree, our Ambassador in Havana will inform the Cuban Prime Minister that, should he have time to come to Ottawa following his visit to Montreal, you, as Prime Minister, would be glad to be his host at luncheon. The date suggested would be Monday, April 27, if you concur. Arrangements for the luncheon would be made by this Department.

Thus Sr. Castro would no longer come to Ottawa "as guest of the Canadian Government," as I had recently recommended, but at his own expense. This would be more in line with the position of the United States Government.

It is my understanding that the Chambers of Commerce in Toronto and Hamilton are anxious to play hosts to Castro.

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

463.

DEA/11562-116-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures  
pour la Direction de l'Amérique*

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to American Division*

[Ottawa], April 13, 1959

## FIDEL CASTRO'S VISIT TO CANADA

At the suggestion of the Under-Secretary, I saw Mr. Rewinkel of the United States Embassy at 3.15 this afternoon to give him some background of our reaction to this visit.

2. I explained first that we had taken no initiative in this matter. An invitation had been extended by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Montreal. Mr. Fidel Castro had accepted this invitation without prior consultation with us. So far as we were concerned, the visit had a private character. I added, however, that representations had been made in Cuba and in Ottawa which led us to believe that Fidel Castro and his party were now manoeuvring to give the visit a somewhat more formal character.

3. I then stressed that the prospect of Fidel Castro's visit was not entertained with any particular enthusiasm. We were somewhat worried as to the implications of Mr. Carrillo's