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*Le chef de la délégation au Conseil de l'Atlantique nord
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Head, Delegation to North Atlantic Council,
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 529

Geneva, May 11, 1961

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TALK WITH RUSK – CUBA

Following is verbatim record of my remarks on Cuba in the NATO Council May 8. Text Begins:

I was impressed with the expositions of USA views on Cuba as given by the Secretary of State of USA this morning. With much of what he said I am in agreement. Certainly Canada deplores many of the practices of Castro régime and in particular shares the concern of USA about the evidence of Castro's increasing orientation toward the Soviet bloc. As to the nature of the Castro régime, we recognize and deplore its dictatorial character. I am less certain that the use of the term "socialist" by Castro in his May day speech is conclusive proof of the complete adherence of Cuba to the Soviet bloc. After all, there would still appear to be a strong nationalist element in the revolutionary movement. It is certainly clear, as the Secretary of State recognized, that many of the social and economic changes introduced during the past year cannot, repeat not, and perhaps should not repeat not, be reversed. For the future, we see no repeat no practicable alternative but to allow adherence to the principle that Cuban people themselves should choose their own form of government. Outside interference may well do more harm than good. If there is to be international action it should at least carry the judgment of other Latin American countries. I was glad to note that the Secretary of State stressed the consultations that are now going on among the American States. Whatever the provocation may have been we recognize that it had been great. We would hope that the possibility of negotiation would not repeat not be ruled out. Even if the prospect of concrete results is light it would seem to us desirable to try to make the attempt, certainly for the sake of relations with Latin America and, just as important or perhaps more, for the sake of world opinion. Text Ends.

[H.C.] GREEN