

5. He mentioned in confidence the suggestion some weeks ago by Argentina that the Argentine authorities might play a mediatory role in the Cuban dispute, and as we understand it, the State Department had indicated that they would not repeat not be interested in a mediation effort until the Cuban Government cut its ties with the Communist bloc. This prompted us to raise with Achilles the question of whether there was any possibility of the State Department taking up the Cuban reference in the Foreign Minister's recent communication to foreign diplomats in Havana about re-establishing diplomatic relations which had been buried in the highly polemical Cuban statement. Although the State Department spokesman had commented immediately and negatively on this, we wondered whether it should not repeat not be given further consideration as a means of reversing the present trend. Achilles in replying adhered firmly to the position taken by the President in his speech to the ASNE group, to the effect that while trade and property matters could be negotiated, Soviet encroachment in the hemisphere was not repeat not negotiable, and implied that this would rule out the reestablishment of diplomatic relations and the renewal of normal contacts as long as the Castro Government adhered (as it appeared to be doing) to its present course.

6. In connection with his reference to a possible task force (he mentioned such names as Dean Acheson, Herman Phleger and Arthur Dean), Achilles said that he believed that one important study which should be made was to develop a more coherent doctrine within the framework of international law for dealing with the current forms of Communist bloc indirect aggression in the hemisphere. This was a problem to which the President had already referred on a number of occasions. The principal obligations assumed by members of the OAS up to the present related to methods of dealing with overt aggression. In Latin America, however, as in other areas of the world, the real threat was more indirect in nature, and adequate procedures should be developed on a wider international basis for dealing with it.

7. Achilles confirmed that the Quito meeting was now postponed, but indicated that when the State Department had formulated its own proposals on Cuba and the role of the OAS in this matter, there would be further discussions with the OAS states as to the forum of consultation. He thought the most likely prospect was for what he called a separate meeting of foreign ministers. Meanwhile, the process of consultation with the OAS governments would continue.

8. You will see from our immediately following telegram† that the question of a possible foreign ministers meeting on the Cuban problem has now become the subject of public speculation.