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*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], March 20, 1959

POSSIBLE VISIT OF CUBAN PRIME MINISTER  
TO MONTREAL, APRIL 18

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Montreal have confirmed that they have invited Fidel Castro to attend the closing (probably on April 18) of their proposed campaign for toys for Cuban children. Castro has not yet accepted.

This is similar to the situation which had developed in Washington where Castro will visit on April 17, as guest of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. The United States Government are expected to take notice of Castro's stay in Washington by way either of an official luncheon or dinner or of a formal call on the President.

In Havana, the Cuban Foreign Minister expressed to our Ambassador the hope that Castro might be invited to Canada.

It is manifestly impossible to prevent the Junior Chamber of Commerce from inviting Castro to Montreal, if they so wish. Furthermore, if the United States Government take official notice of Castro's stay in Washington, the Canadian Government cannot very well ignore Castro's visit to Montreal.

Consequently, I recommend that, if and when Castro accepts the Junior Chamber's invitation and provided it is confirmed that the United States Government will take official notice of his visit to Washington, the Canadian Ambassador in Havana be instructed to convey to Castro the Canadian Government's pleasure on learning of his impending visit to Montreal and to invite him to Ottawa, if he has time, as guest of the Government. Some function in keeping with what may be done in Washington could then be planned for Ottawa.<sup>504</sup>

Alternatively, you may feel that it would be to the advantage of Canada if we were not to wait until the United States Government established their programme (which may not be until it is almost too late for us to act), and if we were to inform Castro now that the Canadian Government would be glad to see him accept the Junior Chamber's invitation and, if possible, come to Ottawa also.

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

<sup>504</sup> Note marginale :/Marginal note:

P.M. agrees to this course. H.B. R[obinson] Mar. 25.