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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 1401

Washington, May 2, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

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CUBA: ATTITUDE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

When I saw the Secretary of State yesterday he had just returned from a three hour session with the Senate Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, before which he had the difficult assignment of explaining the Administration's position in what was essentially a post-mortem on the ill-fated refugee landings. You will have seen newspaper accounts of this "closed" meeting from which it emerged that USA is entertaining no repeat no present thought of military intervention in the island's affairs. We have no repeat no reason to doubt this conclusion and nothing that Rusk said to me would support any forecast of drastic unilateral action.

2. The Secretary, in his conversation with me, made no repeat no attempt to defend USA involvement in the ill-fated operations of April 17 nor repeat nor to underestimate the consequences. He did say however that from State Department reports the landings and their failure had seemed to have accelerated the crystallization of opinion in the hemisphere and a clearer definition of the nature of the threat involved in Castro's Communist régime.

3. In the Latin American countries, Rusk went on, the pro-Castro riots which had taken place were, with the exception of those in Uruguay, no repeat no more serious or extensive than might have been forecast pretty accurately from the known dimensions of the Communist apparatus in the various countries. Further there were important indications that several of the Latin American governments which had [heretofore] been unwilling to recognize or admit the essential character of the Castro problem were beginning to take a more realistic view of its gravity. There appeared to be increasing awareness in the hemisphere that Castro had come to represent a serious threat beyond Cuba's boundaries and, Rusk felt, a better understanding in many quarters of the significance which the USA Administration attached to Soviet encroachment in the hemisphere. This was not repeat not to say that USA participation in the recent affair had any wide support or sympathy in Latin America; nor repeat nor did Rusk attempt to suggest any such thing.

4. In referring to the gravity and difficulty and danger of a Cuba dominated by Soviet communism, Rusk reiterated his appreciation of the statement made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on April 19. He also mentioned on a personal basis and quite informally the possibility of some Canadian association with the "alliance for progress" programme as a positive means of strengthening the solidarity of the hemisphere. He welcomed word which he had had that we were to participate in the forthcoming Santiago meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and noted that we were to have an