

most recent discussion with Achilles, it was our impression that the State Department's evaluation of the Cuban situation and what can be done about it is proceeding at a cautious and measured pace. The Department is still seeking to interpret the various response which have come in from USA missions located in the member countries of the OAS to the enquiries described in our earlier message. As might be expected, these responses have varied a good deal, and in the absence of specific USA proposals as to future policy with respect to Cuba, present a somewhat inconclusive picture.

2. Achilles said that from his reading of the reports, a number of the governments concerned would be quite happy to see the USA take stronger measures towards Cuba, but would prefer not repeat not to hear about them in advance. Certain other governments have urged the importance of prior consultation, but as Achilles said, would be the first to complain publicly at specific measures which might be proposed. However most governments, he said (and this is in line with what the Secretary told us the other day, see my telegram 1401 May 2) now have a clearer realization of the potency and dimensions of the Castro threat and the present dependence of the régime on the Soviet block, and are prepared to consult about its implications.

3. In the time available, we were not repeat not able to examine closely the specific replies on a country by country basis as received by State Department from USA missions concerned. From Argentina, the report was that the Argentine authorities emphasized the importance of cooperation in dealing with the Cuban problem, while there was some indication that individual states could act unilaterally under certain circumstances. The Foreign Minister of Brazil had been "non-committal" and had emphasized that this problem might best be discussed at the Quadros-Kennedy level. The estimate of USA mission in Rio was that the Brazilian Government would probably continue to take the position that no repeat no bold steps should be expected from it in the foreign policy field until further progress had been made in dealing with internal Brazilian problems. (Recent press reports however indicate somewhat greater Brazilian concern with Cuban developments). From Chile, the Foreign Minister, Vergara, had expressed no repeat no disagreement with the State Department's analysis, but was disturbed at any prospect of possible unilateral action. The report from Colombia suggested that the Colombian Government would only be likely to move along with the governments of such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela. From Ecuador, the indication was that they would be reluctant to join in a condemnation of Castro. Mexico again was noncommittal and would be likely to take the view that no repeat no effective international legal instrument existed at present to oppose the spread of international communism.

4. These responses of course were based on preliminary discussions in the capitals themselves and were not repeat not definitive. Achilles said that the next step would be taken here to examine (possibly by the continuation of some kind of task force procedures) the various courses open to USA and the members of the OAS in dealing with the problem of Cuba. As on the occasion of our previous discussion, he said he could not repeat not yet be specific as to what these courses might be, or as to the degree to which they might be effective in dealing with Castro. This would be the subject of careful study before any proposals were put to the OAS governments.