

the complete network of control posts has been fully organized (about four years after the conclusion of a treaty).

5. While we are not optimistic that representations to the Polish Government will have any effect on Soviet attitude in Geneva, we think the Poles should be made aware of the international issues about which we in our turn are particularly concerned. We have already indicated to Polish Chargé here our views on the interaction of world crises and have suggested that progress in other areas such as Laos and the nuclear weapons test talks might create conditions for an improvement in the Cuban situation.

6. If you decide to follow up Polish representations to us on Cuba, you might therefore indicate to Rapacki our deep concern that a failure of the Geneva negotiators to show some progress might seriously undermine the prospects not only for a discontinuance of nuclear weapons testing which we have consistently worked for, but for an easing of international tensions. We would hope that they in turn might be able in their discussion of this question with Soviet Union to bring pressure to bear to avoid protracted negotiations which could only result in enforcing the conviction which is growing that the USSR is not really interested in a successful conclusion of the nuclear weapons test negotiations at this time.

[N.A. ROBERTSON]

838.

DEA/2444-40

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

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

TELEGRAM 1551

Washington, May 13, 1961

SECRET. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Our Tel 1532 May 12.†

Repeat for Information: Prime Minister Ottawa (OpImmediate), Geneva (for Minister) (OpImmediate) from Ottawa.

CANADA AND CUBA

Last evening I was asked as a matter of urgency (and, it was intimated to me, the request came from a high level) to go to the State Department and see the Acting Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs (Coerr). I of course complied and saw Coerr at 6:30 pm. The substance of the conversation which ensured I reported to the Under-Secretary by phone upon my return from the State Department.

2. Coerr immediately raised with me the Associated Press story from Geneva "Canada set to mediate Cuba dispute,"²⁰ the text of which was reported in our reference telegram. He first of all enquired whether I was in a position to verify or otherwise the accuracy of the report. I said I was not repeat not. He then went on to say that Washington had asked the Secretary of State to discuss the matter with the Minister in Geneva and intimated that USA authorities were surprised and concerned at what appeared to be a wide divergence from USA appreciation of the Cuban situation and how it should be dealt with.

²⁰ Voir/See Arthur Gavshon, "Canada Set to Mediate Cuba Dispute," *Washington Post*, May 12, 1961, p. A10.