

6. The debate in the First Committee on the Cuban Complaint of Aggression by the United States will likely take place in an atmosphere of great tension in view of current developments. I understand that twelve Latin American nations are co-sponsoring a resolution which would urge members of the Organization of American States to help settle the dispute between Cuba and the United States by peaceful means. Such a resolution is said to be acceptable to the United States and might be supported by the Canadian delegation.

7. In the event that a question is asked in the House, I attach notes† which could be used in a statement.³

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

818.

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 1223

Washington, April 17, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Our Tel 1214 Apr 17.†

Repeat for Information: Candel New York (OpImmediate), London, NATO Paris, Paris, Permis New York (Priority).

By Bag Havana, Mexico, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Port-au-Prince, Trujillo, Caracas, Port-of-Spain, Bogotá, Quito, San Jose, Guatemala from Ottawa.

CUBA

Vallon, Director of State Department Office of Cuban and Mexican Affairs, confirmed for us today that he could say little more than Secretary Rusk had said in his press conference this morning⁴ (our reference telegram). He said State Department had no repeat no firm information on where or in what numbers the reported landings in Cuba had been made. He had no repeat no evidence on which to base an assessment that a large-scale invasion was in progress. He said he thought that the landings this morning might simply have been "infiltration" as on past occasions, though possibly on a larger scale. He noted that communications with Cuba had been cut off and that aerial overflights had been proscribed. Air carriers had already taken the necessary steps for detouring around Cuba. However, he hoped to have further information for us tomorrow.

³ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

First part of statement only (no supps) given by SSEA in answer to a question in House 17/4. [Ross Campbell]

⁴ Voir/See "Text of Secretary Rusk's News Conference, Including Observations on Cuba," *New York Times*, April 18, 1961, p. 18.