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4.00 to 8
December 13, 1963

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY

Through: S/S
From: SCA - Abba P. Schwartz
L - Abram Chayes
Subject: Travel Regulations

REVIEWED BY gds DATE 11/21/65
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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The Deputy Attorney General last night gave the Secretary a memorandum from the Attorney General urging that the ban on travel to Cuba be removed immediately. We concur, subject to the limitations on p. 2.

In summary, the Attorney General's reasons are:

1. The present travel restrictions are inconsistent with traditional American liberties.
2. It would be extremely difficult to enforce the present prohibitions on travel to Cuba without resorting to mass indictments. Mr. Katzenbach added that he feared a Federal "Mississippi" with serious political repercussions at home and abroad.
3. Removal of the travel ban would take the wind out of the sails of present travel-to-Cuba agitators.

The Attorney General said that he is aware of the political problems inherent in the proposed step, but that he believes they are outweighed by the above considerations.

At the meeting with the Secretary last evening, it was brought out that any change in travel restrictions should be worldwide, and not limited to Cuba. Subsequently, Governor Harriman discussed this subject with the Attorney General, who agreed.

In accordance with the Secretary's request, we attach:

1. A copy of a memorandum from the Attorney General to the Secretary;
2. A draft of the new regulations.
3. A proposed press release announcing the revised regulations.

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- 2 -

The new regulations would permit travel by United States citizens to all countries and areas now subject to restrictions, except for travel by persons believed to be participating in subversive activities directed against the United States or other countries. Persons desiring to travel to Albania, Cuba or the communist portions of China, Korea or North Viet Nam would still be required to obtain passports specifically validated for such travel, and, where Treasury regulations are applicable, would still require Treasury licenses. The decision on whether to validate passports for such travel would be discretionary with the Secretary. No administrative hearing procedure is contemplated.

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