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CC CPSU

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Subject to return to the
General Department CC CPSU

RECORD OF CONVERSATION
with the head of the USA sector
of the Americas Department of the CC of the Communist Party of Cuba
Jose Antonio Arbesu

December 27, 1979

In a conversation at the CC of the Communist Party of Cuba J.A. Arbesu presented some considerations concerning current Cuban-American relations.

The U.S. policy in the question of normalization of the relations with Cuba is determined by two main factors: their military-strategic interests, and the domestic situation, said Arbesu. At the same time, from the military-strategic point of view, there are two policy lines in the U.S. leadership now: the National Security Council line, and the line of the State Department. Thus, Brzezinski thinks that Cuba, "as a result of its economic dependence on the Soviet Union" does not have its own foreign policy, that it is a "Soviet satellite", and that therefore, there is no sense in talking to Cuba. All the questions concerning, for example, the Cuban actions in Africa or in Central America should be discussed with the Soviet Union so that it would "put the needed pressure on Cuba".

The U.S. State Department takes a different approach in relation to Cuba. They believe that all in spite of all those things, the questions concerning Cuba should be discussed with Cuba itself, not with the USSR.

In the last several months the Brzezinski line took over in the American leadership, said Arbesu; and that had a negative effect not only on the U.S.-Cuban relations but also on their policy to Latin America in general. The U.S. instigated the well-known "microcrisis" concerning the presence of the Soviet military training center in Cuba, renewed reconnaissance flights over our territory, conducted the provoking maneuvers on their base in Guantanamo, and naval exercises near our coasts. All this led to the situation where now we have reached "the lowest point in our relations with the U.S. since Carter became President in 1977", mentioned Arbesu.

[...]

Besides, mentioned Arbesu, we believe that the so-called "expansionism" will be one of the themes of this electoral campaign in the U.S. It will mean primarily the Soviet Union, and its actions in Africa, for example, and it will certainly touch upon us as well.

The electoral campaign which has begun in the U.S. also led many Senators and Congressmen, who always stood for improving relations with Cuba, not to speak about it publicly. Senator G. McGovern has to exercise caution now because the state in which he will run for reelection is well known for its conservative electorate. The same could be said about Senator Church. Other "young Senators", like, for example, F. Richmond, and R. Nolan, even though they are not up for re-election this time, prefer not to mention the question of normalization of relations with Cuba now.

[...]

ADVISER AT THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

[signature]
A. SELETSKII

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