

AC - Chan

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March 1, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Mr. Donovan's Trip to Cuba

Bob Hurwitch tells me that Donovan is still waiting to hear from Castro regarding a meeting this weekend in Havana. If there is a meeting, it will probably be devoted solely to the release of the prisoners; there will probably be no talk of U.S. / Cuba relations.

Optimumly, Bob sees two stages in the process. The first stage is to release the prisoners while the second stage is to have Donovan talk to Castro about broader policy questions. It would not be good to take the second stage until the prisoner issue is settled. It might indicate to Castro that he can use the prisoners as leverage; he has not yet tried to do so.

Once the prisoner deal is laid on, Donovan will be given ~~clear~~ instructions when he prepares to go down to Cuba for his week-long walk on the beach with Castro. While he has not yet cleared such instructions, Bob thinks we should instruct Donovan to tell Castro that "As far as I understand U.S. policy, only two things are non-negotiable, (1) Cuba's ties with the Sino-Soviet Bloc and (2) Cuba's interference with the hemisphere." Bob visualizes Donovan's role as primarily a transmitter to the U.S. Government of any proposals Castro might make in response to this line. Care would be exercised to avoid any connection with this trip and the U.S. Government.

There is a slim chance that Castro may force the policy issue this weekend. We should know the answer to this when Castro's man calls Donovan about the appointment. If Castro does insist on talking about policy, we will have to instruct Donovan carefully.

Gordon Chase

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, (b)

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