

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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~~EYES ONLY~~

July 7, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Adlai Stevenson and Lisa Howard

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12336, Sec. 3.4
NEJ 94-231
By [signature], NARA, Date 7-12-95

Here are some thoughts on the above subject.

1. I think we should be clear that the latest developments add at least two new factors to the situation which make Lisa Howard's participation even scarier than it was before. One, for the first time during the Johnson Administration, Lisa has been used to carry a message from the U.S. to Cuba. Before this, the Johnson Administration had relatively little to fear from Lisa since, essentially, we were just listening to her reports on and from Castro. Two, Lisa's contact on the U.S. side is far sexier now (Stevenson), than at any time in the past (Attwood and then Chase).

2. While I'm in favor of having a channel to Castro, I would feel somewhat safer if we could find a way to remove Lisa from direct participation in the business of passing messages (a view which I have held for some time -- e.g. see attached memo). Accordingly, you might want to consider the desirability of calling Stevenson to make such points as the following:

(a) Lisa Howard's participation in the U.S./Cuba channel, understandably, makes us nervous -- the more so now, since communications are passing and may pass, in the future, from the U.S. to Cuba. Also, the name of Lisa's new American contact, Adlai Stevenson, is not an unsexy one from a public media point of view.

(b) We would appreciate it if you would give some thought to ways and means of retaining a channel to Castro but removing Lisa from direct participation.

(c) One possibility might be to shift the channel to Lechuga, the channel which had been set up just before President Kennedy died. With Bill Attwood gone, perhaps you could have Sid Yates (Attwood's nominee) ~~to~~ pass Lechuga in the corridor periodically to exchange whatever messages may need to be exchanged.

We doubt that Castro would object to a change in channels. In your memo of June 26 you note, "that for want of anything better, he (Castro) assumed that he could call her and she call me and I would advise you."

(d) We recognize that it won't be easy to extricate Lisa from the operation. One way to do it might be to simply tell her that we have nothing further to say;

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at the same time we could indicate to Castro that we prefer to communicate on the Lechuga channel and that we would appreciate his cooperation in keeping from Lisa news of this switch in channels.

Another possibility is to "level" with Lisa and tell her (1) that we are very chary of the security aspects of her phone conversations between the U. S. and Havana, (2) that we have decided to use the Lechuga channel for any further messages (which Lisa effectively set up), and (3) Lisa should relax, stay quiet, and stand at the ready -- we may want to use her influence with Castro in the future.

GC
Gordon Chase

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