

JM  
 aa  
 22.6.67  
 GE/di p. B. 24. Am. 2.

Bern, den 20. Juni 1967

Notiz für Herrn Botschafter Micheli

Kopie geht an : Herrn L. Mossaz  
 Schweizerische Botschaft Havanna  
 Schweizerische Botschaft Washington

Der 1. Botschaftsrat der US-Botschaft, Herr Edward S. Little, spricht heute auf eigenen Wunsch bei mir vor, um mir die beiliegende Note zu überbringen. Darin wird um eine erneute Intervention unserer Botschaft in Havanna zu Gunsten einer Ausreise der amerikanischen Staatsangehörigen in Kuba ersucht. Herr Little erklärt, eine Kopie dieser Note sei direkt dem Dienst für fremde Interessen übermittelt worden. Mit der Aushändigung der Originalnote an die Abteilung für Politische Angelegenheiten möchte die Botschaft die Bedeutung zum Ausdruck bringen, die der Sache amerikanischerseits beigemessen werde.

Ich sage Herrn Little zu, das Departement werde unsere Botschaft in Havanna entsprechend verständigen.

Gemäss telefonischer Vereinbarung mit Herrn Mossaz wird sein Dienst sich in dieser Sache mit unserer Botschaft in Havanna in Verbindung setzen.

1 Beilage

Mr. Gebors



CONFIDENTIAL

Cuba No. 4795

The Embassy of the United States of America wishes to inform the Federal Political Department of the following message received from the Department of State:

As the Swiss Government is aware, the United States has for the last few years been attempting to bring about repatriation of United States citizens resident in Cuba along with their immediate family members. There are now approximately 1,000 citizens who have registered their desire for repatriation and, with alien relatives included, the group involved is estimated at more than 3,000 people. It has long been obvious that the Cuban Government was deliberately preventing departure of these citizens not only on the refugee airlift but by any other means including commercial air routes through third countries.

Following return from a visit to Cuba, a private United States citizen recently reported that he had raised this question with the Cuban Academy of Sciences and requested he be informed of the official policy of the Cuban Government. He says he was subsequently told by Dr. Lopez Sanchez, Vice President of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, that the latter had discussed the matter with "the heads of government" and that the situation was quite different from the way the inquirer had understood it to be. Dr. Lopez Sanchez stated unequivocally that all United States nationals and their families could leave Cuba without interference at any time the United States Government was willing to dispatch passenger planes with sufficient capacity to take them. The United States visitor insisted on making sure that he understood the Cuban position completely and was given repeated assurances that the Cuban Government regarded the presence of these people in Cuba as both expensive and otherwise inconvenient and would welcome their departure. The Cuban official went on to say that the Department of State "left these families in Cuba for propaganda purposes." Lee Lockwood, a United States journalist, not long ago reported that Castro himself had earlier made statements to him generally similar to the foregoing in the sense

of insisting . . .



of insisting that there was no bar to the departure of United States citizens but that Cuba would not give them priority treatment.

The statements quoted in the preceding paragraphs are an obvious attempt of the Cuban Government to cover up the fact that the United States citizens in question have been deliberately kept in Cuba as hostages. In 1966, when Ambassador Stadelhofer was in Havana, the United States Government, through him, offered to send special planes to repatriate the United States citizens so that no reduction in the flow of Cuban refugees would be caused by using the refugee airlift planes for this purpose. Moreover, the Swiss Government itself expressed to the Cubans a willingness to charter a ship or ships in order to carry out the repatriation. Neither of these attempts evoked any response from the Cuban Government. That the Cuban Government is deliberately preventing United States citizens from departing is shown by numerous instances where the Cuban Government has authorized Cuban members of a family to depart via Mexico or Spain but has denied exit permits to the United States citizen members of that family. Following the repatriation of 169 persons in December 1966 through the good offices of the Mexican Government, the latter has been waiting since January of this year for a Cuban reply to its request to carry out the repatriation of other United States citizens on special chartered planes.

However, inasmuch as it is clear that Cuban officials are attempting to cover up their policy with respect to United States citizens, it is considered desirable to confront them with the statements quoted above. It would, therefore, be appreciated if the Swiss Ambassador in Havana would inform the Cuban Government at the highest available level that he has heard of the alleged willingness of the Cuban Government, as expressed to the persons referred to above, to permit the United States citizens to depart any time passenger planes are made available, and that the United States Government is prepared to send special planes to Cuba any time it is notified that the United States citizens and their families are authorized to depart.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Bern, June 20, 1967.

ESL