

# TELEGRAM

INCOMING

BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

ACTION  
POL-2  
INFO  
FILES  
RF

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Control: 1022

Recd: 29MAY67

O P 271630Z MAY 67  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 2230  
INFO RULPAL/USCINCSO PRIORITY UNN  
RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 047  
RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 172  
RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIODEJANEIRO 141  
RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 94  
RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 123  
RUESLM/AMEMBASSY LIMA 095  
RUESMO/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 229  
RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 43  
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 022  
STATE GRNC  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6298

SUBJECT: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN CONTEXT WORLD SITUATION

1. IN CONVERSATION LAST EVENING WITH DR. MANUEL MANTILLA, PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY, HE REFERRED TO RECENT CRITICISM OF THE US (EMBTCL 6206) BY MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT PARTY (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS BY DR. CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ALLEGED A LACK OF US DETERMINATION IN FACING UP TO THE PROBLEM BY CASTRO). HE SAID THESE POINTS OF VIEW DO NOT REPRESENT THE ATTITUDE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. WE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS THE CRITICAL WORLD SITUATION: VIETNAM, THE MID-EAST CRISIS, AND CASTROITE INTERVENTION IN HEMISPHERE. DR. MANTILLA SPOKE WITH UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS WHICH PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS BORNE WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION. HE SAID PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN MAGNIFICANT, OR AS VENEZUELAN SAY: GUAPO. HE STATED THAT BECAUSE US IS GREAT POWER, TENDENCY IS TO BELIEVE US CAN MEET ANY SITUATION AND THEREFORE THERE IS DISPOSITION TO PILE MORE AND MORE PROBLEMS ON ITS SHOULDERS.

2. ON CUBAN PROBLEM, HE SAID HE BELIEVED PERSONALLY THAT ECONOMIC PRESSURE WAS MOST PROMISING AVENUE FOR ACHIEVING RESULTS. ALSO A BUILDUP OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES BY VENEZUELA AND OTHER NATIONS AFFECTED BY CASTRO INTERVENTION IS ESSENTIAL AS WELL AS FORWARD PROGRESS TOWARDS LATIN AMERICAN UNITY. HE THEN ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE AND GOV SUPPORTED POLICY

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OF NON-INTERVENTION, THERE WAS A REALITY TO BE FACED.

3. THE GOV, HE SAID, IS WATCHING CLOSELY THE ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND BELIEVES THAT IT HAS DETECTED A HARDENING OF MOSCOW'S LINE. A VOLLEY OF ATTACKS (BOMBARDEO) AGAINST VENEZUELA HAS COME FORTH IN RECENT DAYS. DR. MANTILLA STATED THAT HE WISHED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY IN THE CRITICAL DAYS AHEAD.

4. COMMENT: IT IS BELIEVED THAT DR. MANTILLA CALLED ME TO MIRAFLORES FOR THIS CONVERSATION TO GIVE BALANCE TO CRITICISMS OF US, GROWING OUT OF VENEZUELAN FRUSTRATION, BY LEADERS OF THE AD PARTY. ALTHOUGH DR. MANTILLA REMARKS RE REALITY TO BE FACED CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE IAPF, ITS INDICATES SOME THINKING TOWARDS A BETTER HEMISPHERE SECURITY SYSTEM TAKING PLACE.

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