



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

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SECRET/NODIS/EYES ONLY

June 21, 1975

To: The Secretary

NOVIS REVIEW

**Cat. A** - Caption removed; transferred to [redacted]

**Cat. B** - Transferred to [redacted] with additional access controlled by S/S

**Cat. C** - Caption and custody retained by S/S

Reviewed by: [Signature]

Date: 8/10/93

Through: [redacted] - Mr. Eagleb...  
 [redacted] - William D. Rogers

Baseball and Cuba?

*We must specialize in option papers none of which I like.*

The Problem

Bowie Kuhn, the Commissioner of Baseball, has given me privately his proposal for a visit to Cuba of an All Star team next Spring (attached). McGovern, of course, raised the issue during his recent trip to Havana.

"We now specialize in option papers none of which I like."

Discussion/Analysis

We turned the Commissioner off when he first proposed a Cuba trip for the Spring of 1975. Now the Cubans have returned the \$2 million Southern Airways ransom money. A baseball visit might be a tidy and apolitical gesture in response.

There are a variety of ways we could time the arrangements and the announcement: Bowie could see the Cubans in Mexico next week, and a 1976 visit could be announced before or during the All Star game celebrations in Milwaukee, in which you are to participate. Or we could tell Bowie to make the arrangements with the Cubans quietly now and that we will talk with him about announcing it at a later time. Or we could tell him to hold off.

*This is option I like*

"This is option I like"

I am inclined to think that a public announcement of a 1976 visit would not be a bad thing this summer, as a response to the Southern Airways ransom payment.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS/FPC/CDR JIC Date: 8/18/93

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I add that Bowie and I have not brought McGovern into this, and we do not intend to.

Options

Tell Kuhn to talk to the Cubans about a 1976 visit and agree with him that we will consult when he returns from Mexico about the timing of the announcement.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVELY, tell Kuhn that we think we can do it next Spring, but that he should not communicate with the Cubans until further notice.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVELY, tell Kuhn that we would like to postpone consideration of an All Star visit just now.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment:

Kuhn proposal.

Drafted: ARA:WDRogers:cjs  
6/21/75:x29210