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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

14 March 1964

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT: Alleged Contacts Between Castro and American  
Government

1. Against the background of the post-Special Group Meeting which you held late in the afternoon on 5 November 1963, I thought you would be interested in the following report which we have just received:

2. About the middle of February 1964, a high-ranking Cuban official who has close personal connections with top-level Government personalities in Cuba was told by Haul Roa Garcia, the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, that President Kennedy, prior to his assassination, had "established certain contacts" with Cuba. Roa said that emissaries from President Kennedy had been sent to make contact with the Cubans; he mentioned specifically that some contacts had taken place in New York, but did not make it clear whether New York was the only place where there had been such contacts. Roa did not describe or identify the emissaries.

3. According to Roa, Fidel Castro felt that it was possible that President Kennedy would have gone on ultimately to negotiate with Cuba. Roa explained that such negotiations would not have been based on any "love for Cuba", but would have been in the nature of acceptance of a fait accompli for practical reasons; this would have been to Cuba's advantage, in Roa's opinion.

4. Roa added that "it is believed" that President Johnson is unaware of his predecessor's activities in this matter, and for this reason is not continuing President Kennedy's policy. Castro referred to President Johnson in harsh terms in source's presence.

*Richard Helms*  
Deputy Director for Plans

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with the President  
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