

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

*Mexico*

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Action

Control: 2815

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Rec'd: APRIL 3, 1963  
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Info

FROM: MEXICO CITY

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SR

SP

NO: 2496, APRIL 3, 3 PM

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EMBTEL 2472.

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IN CONVERSATION WITH HIGH OFFICIAL FOREIGN OFFICE EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT GOM MAINTAINS VERY CAREFUL REGISTER OF ALL TRAVELERS TO AND FROM CUBA AND THAT CONTROLS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFTEL ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED, IN ADDITION TO PLACING OF ENTRY FROM AND EXIT TO CUBA STAMPS IN PASSPORTS ALL TRAVELERS (WIROM 2462 AND OMV-240). PARENTHETICALLY OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE IS RECEIVING PROTESTS FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE QUARTERS, UNIDENTIFIED, ON USE OF THESE STAMPS. HE STATED THAT ALL NON-MEXICANS WHO HAVE GONE TO CUBA FROM MEXICO AND LATER DESIRE RETURN HERE MUST APPLY TO EMBASSY HABANA FOR SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF RAK. THIS REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHES CONTROL OVER MAJORITY OF TRAVELERS DESIRING ENTER FROM CUBA BUT DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE IN CONTINUOUS TRANSIT (ONWARD TICKETS AND PROMPT TRANSFER FROM CUBANA AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT TO ANOTHER LINE).

PERSONS IN CONTINUOUS TRANSIT, OFFICIAL EXPLAINED, REQUIRE NO MEXICAN VISA OR GOBERNACION AUTHORIZATION BECAUSE THEY ARE PERMITTED UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL IN TRANSIT UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. OFFICIAL STATED THERE WERE 25 CUBANA FLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 15 TO FEBRUARY 15 AND THAT PASSENGERS IN CONTINUOUS TRANSIT THROUGH MEXICO (IN ADDITION TO PASSENGERS DESTINED FOR OR STOPPING OVER HERE, TOTAL OF WHOM EMBASSY WILL REPORT LATER) IN THAT PERIOD NUMBERED 500. OF THIS NUMBER 38 WERE CUBANS, 54 CANADIANS, VERY FEW EUROPEANS, MOST OF REMAINDER WERE CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICANS. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL SAID THIS FORM OF TRAVEL WAS PROBABLY LOOPHOLE WHICH HE ASSUMED MOST "UNDESIRABLE" TRAVFLERS WOULD USE IN

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-2- 2496, APRIL 3, 3 PM FROM MEXICO CITY

ORDER AVOID REQUIREMENT GOM VISA OR ENTRY AUTHORIZATION. HE ADDED THAT MINISTRY OF GOBERNACION STUDYING THIS PROBLEM TO SEE WHETHER ANY CONTROL POSSIBLE. IN MEANTIME, TRAVELERS IN CONTINUOUS TRANSIT BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AND THEIR PASSPORTS STAMPED WITH NEW "ENTRY FROM CUBA" STAMP.

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\*AS RECEIVED.

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