

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 354, August 10, 5 p.m.

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Yesterday evening I had discussion with Minister of State Roa regarding promised interview with Castro. I pointed out that I made my request on July 23, 2 weeks ago (DEPTEL 144). I said that I thought there were only two possible interpretations (A) that Castro uninterested in discussing current aspects Cuban-American relations which give serious cause for concern, (B) did not wish to see me personally. Since I had no reason to believe that (B) was correct, I could only conclude Castro does not share my interest in improvement Cuban-American relations. Roa was apparently embarrassed and made many protestations of friendship, et cetera, stating further that he would try to arrange talk with Castro either last night or this morning. This apparently proved impossible.

Department may wish repeat this message to Santiago. It would be helpful to me if Secretary and Rubottom could indicate to Roa their awareness of Castro's delay in seeing me.

BONSAL

MGG:FKG/11

Date

NOTE: Mr Owen (CMA) notified 8/10 8:20 p.m. EH Repeated to Santiago per Mr. Owen.

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