

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control:

8780 JAN 16 1959
JANUARY 16 1959

ARA

Rec'd:

10:12 AM

Info

FROM: HABANA

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 840, JANUARY 16

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CASTRO STATEMENT THAT U S INTERVENTION WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY "200,000 GRINGOES DEAD" STEMMED FROM AN ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT HERE. CASTRO IS REPORTED AS ANGERED BY PRESS REPORT AND IS QUOTED AS SAYING TO AN INTERVIEWER: "I HAD LET OFF STEAM TO A SMALL GROUP OF FRIENDS, BUT IT WAS NOT FOR PUBLICATION," AND "IT IS DANGEROUS TO GIVE THIS KIND OF NEWS," AND " I DO NOT MAKE AGGRESSIVE STATEMENTS AGAINST ANYBODY." NEAR THE CLOSE OF HIS SPEECH AT THE ROTARY CLUB CASTRO REMARKED THAT " WE MUST BE CAREFUL OF OUR DECLARATIONS."

THE AP REPRESENTATIVE HERE WAS APPROACHED BY THE PRESS ATTACHE WITH A REMINDER THAT STATEMENTS REPORTED OUT OF CONTEXT WERE HURTFUL OF RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CUBA. AP REPLIED THAT THERE WERE ANOTHER 15 CUBAN AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT DURING CASTRO'S OUTBURST. THE ASSERTION IS NOT BORNE OUT BY A CHECK OF OTHER CORRESPONDENTS.

SMITH

SGC

Note: Mr. Stevenson's office (CMA) informed 10:30 a.m., 1-16-59
FMH.

611.37/1-1659

DMS

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JAN 27 1959

CMA
1/19/59