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Dec. 15

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE: Please note the
date of the incoming
correspondence -- August 25.

In view of the late date of this
response, who should sign
the letter, if at all?

Thanks!

ME
me
See
Re this
↓

Donna

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 12, 1975

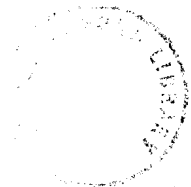
MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN MARSH
FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *JWD*
SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. Daniel James

Mr. Daniel James of Relaciones Publicas Publicidad y Promocion, a public relations organization in Mexico, wrote you to express his concern over the direction of U.S. policy toward Cuba. He indicates that he met you in 1963 when he was organizing the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba. He expresses the view that the U.S. should not unconditionally move toward improving relations with Castro (Tab B).

Attached at Tab A for your signature is a suggested reply which thanks him for his letter and apologizes for the delay in responding to him. It clarifies the policy we are following with regard to Cuba and points out that recent measures have been directed at modifying aspects of our Cuban denial policy which affected U.S. relations with other countries. The response reiterates the President's position that change in our bilateral policies toward Cuba will depend upon Cuban attitudes and policies toward us.

We regret the delay in forwarding this response for your signature.

*I'm sorry but this letter was
just misplaced in our files.
It won't happen again.
JWD*



Suggested Reply

Dear Dan:

Thank you for your letter regarding U.S. policy toward Cuba. I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding to you.

I can understand and agree with the concern you express about any effort to establish improved relations with Cuba without our achieving, at a minimum, progress on resolution of outstanding issues between our two countries. As you noted, there are a number of complex and important issues outstanding between the United States and Cuba--including United States citizens imprisoned in Cuba, compensation for expropriated properties, divided families, and Cuba's external policies.

In keeping with the decision of the Organization of American States to permit each member state to determine for itself the nature of its diplomatic and commercial relations with Cuba, the United States has been modifying those aspects of our Cuban denial policy which penalize other countries that trade with Cuba. The lifting of those restrictions, which are primarily irritants in our relations with friendly third countries, does not affect our prohibition against bilateral trade with Cuba. This continues in force. We have made it clear that we see no advantage in permanent antagonism between ourselves and Cuba and that we would be willing to enter into discussions on a basis of reciprocity at an appropriate time. But change in our bilateral

policies toward Cuba will depend on Cuban attitudes and policies toward us. Recent Cuban intervention in the internal affairs of other countries can only be interpreted as an indication of their attitude.

I appreciated knowing your views on this matter.

Sincerely,

John Marsh

Mr. Daniel James
Relaciones Publicas Publicidad y Promocion
CZBA de Tlalpan 464
Mexico City, DF, Mexico

SEP 2 1975

6138

Relaciones Públicas
Publicidad y
Promoción

1517946

August 25, 1975

Hon. Jack Marsh
Legislative Counsel
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

You may recall that we met in 1953 when you were in the House and I was organizing the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, and you helped out considerably.

You may also recall that I'm a writer who has lived in Mexico and covered Latin America for many years. My last books were a biography of Che Guevara and his Diaries.

I'm writing this because I'm disturbed over the way we're sliding into an amicable relationship with Castro, without putting any real conditions, and under duress from certain Latin American states. Neither one, it seems to me, puts the U. S. in a good light down here.

The U. S.-Cuban de facto detente doesn't take into account, for example, the large number of political prisoners in Castro's jails, the majority of them former partisans of his. One in particular, Maj. Hubert Matos, was considered the second man in Cuba back in 1959, when Castro and Guevara railroaded him to prison, where he has been rotting -- I believe literally -- ever since. I see no reason why we should favor the emigration of Jews from Russia, with which I agree, but not the freeing of Castro's political prisoners. Indeed, our silence on the issue leaves the impression that Castro is without sin where the freedoms are concerned.

In general, we're letting ourselves be pressured by ideological interests here into detente with Castro -- I don't necessarily oppose detente, but believe the way should be prepared very carefully -- and in that way encouraging the almost universal leftward swing in Latin America which is bound to hurt U. S. interests in the area (e. g., the Panama Canal).

Since you're about the only person in this Administration who I am acquainted with personally, I'd appreciate a reading from you on the Cuba issue.

With all best personal wishes,

Sincerely,
