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21 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD NO. 318

SUBJECT: Two Letters from Cuba.

1. At my meeting with Dr. Miro on 19 May, he brought me copies of two letters recently received from Cuba. The first of these is dated 29 April 1962 in Havana and it is written to him and Mrs. Miro from the Bishop of Pinar del Rio. Because of the bitter sarcasm in the letter, it is rather interesting. Following is a hasty translation of this letter:

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I write to you again for myself and for my family wishing you the best of health and congratulations for the happy surgical operation to which was submitted El Chamaco -- presumably a relative or friend of theirs. It is a pity that you cannot see the beautiful spectacle which Havana offers now all garlanded with innumerable Cuban flags. You might think it was before 1959. I mean red flags. This is really something that kindles the patriotic love, but patriotic Russian love. The hymn of Perucheo appears not to sound well and they are revising it, since almost never is it played and is being replaced by the beautiful and heavy international hymn which is the real hymn of all the "workers of the world." At all hours constantly it is heard. This is a marvel, "we are in the best possible situation" with abundance of steel, much steel, which they are sending to us in a "generous and disinterested" manner, the great Russian nation "champion of peace," which arms itself and conducts nuclear tests to preserve the world from war to which it wants to carry the "Yankee Imperialist."

Therefore, Russia, at the end of last year, "broke the

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voluntary promise of not conducting nuclear tests" and now it opposes the inspection which is "another case of a scheme for espionage," and at the same time protests the American tests as also does THE SOCIALIST CUBAN GOVERNMENT, "such a lover of lies" which congratulates the Soviet Union when it conducts tests. This, I repeat, is a charming place. We have "such abundance" that of what is left over we are sending to Russia and other Socialist countries, which are such friends of ours and so much have assisted and sacrificed for us, foods, grains, candies, shoes, and so forth, and they send us very much steel which seems to be very good and at the same time indicated that the human organism may have much energy. Here we are all "so happy and contented" that nobody has the idea of writing in a magazine or newspaper or talking by radio or television something ^{which} would indicate a criticism or censor of the magnificent and unimprovable and without equal regime, since there is "nothing to be the cause of it."

This is a humanism really and a very exemplary case for all America, "since human rights are fully respected with such an exquisite and delicate treatment of the prisoners," the relatives being able to see them frequently although "they cannot take them foodstuffs" because "it is not necessary in view of the abundance which exists in all the country." The worker is better than he has "never seen himself before," since now for love of the country (not to maintain the imitators of Russia) they work earning less, giving extra hours free, sacrificing days without pay, trying to help the production become greater and the consumption less, because now it is really true that they eat "parejo" (parejo means on equal terms, just alike. This implies that everybody has nothing):

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I do not understand how you cannot become enthusiastic with this paradise of Fidel and of the comrades which have succeeded in making Cuba what could not be obtained in as many years of Republican life. These are "certainly a democracy in which the people are the owners of everything and who are in the power and command." And all this is done easily in popular assemblies in which Fidel says what and the others (doesn't make any difference what the number) raise the hand or the finger. In this way, it is very clear that ^{it is} the people who are in charge and "desire." Naturally, everything here is done voluntarily in such way that it cannot be said that they are obliged to attend, since we are a free country of America. It would be a calumny to say that here the Russians are in command or the Chinese or the Czechs and that we are a "pox of the King," because they "live very badly here in very bad houses with old cars, scarce food, and while they are sacrificing, the Cuban people are enjoying enviable comfort and foods." Naturally, the Cuban people know how to recognize the self-denial and sacrifice of these "good friends of Cuba."

Now they say (in a very low voice) that there will be another exchange of money. It must be that the current money presents a danger of an epidemic for its sturdiness and they are concerned for the good of the people and will give other clean money. Now, when there is such an abundance of soap, it also appears that they are very happy with the week between the 15th and 22nd of this month since there has been a demonstration of atheism.

You are very much remembered and sincerely loved by

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El Negrito.

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2. The other letter is from a Cuban woman who is a relative of the Miro family and writes to her daughter.

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You do not know how sorry I am that you haven't been here on Mother's Day in order to have been able to send you to cut sugar cane and consider myself a happy mother, a real Mariana Grajales, who sends her children to carry out their duty cutting cane. During those days there are nothing but mottoes and watchwords and that is all you hear listening on the radio and television. I believe that there won't be a single Cuban left who will not hear this call to his heart and carry out his duty, ha ha.

The Gusaneria (this means the Worm People, the anti-Castro people) is stirring up disturbances now-a-days. You will say that this Government is making a point of its humanism and doesn't want to terminate with it. They have committed terrific acts, such as burning cane, farms, cooperatives, laboratories, gas works, really a terrific amount.

In order to relax, they go to the movies where pictures of the fine team are put on, such as the Czech film, "Muerto Acaballo" (Death on Horseback), where the protagonist suffers an accident along with his horse, he prefers a horse, and in order not to see him suffer decides to shoot him. Then the public, which goes for this purpose, shouts, "kill him, give the caballo (horse) a shot." (Note: This is a joke among Cubans because the Dictator Castro is called El Caballo.) In another picture,

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"Around the World in Eighty Days," they come out to a table full of goodies ^{an} (Imperialist vice) and the people shout, "Abusers, we are hungry." Lie. Here nothing is lacking, we all eat arejo (alike) (we all are hungry alike). The G-2 (Secret Police) had to enter the movie houses and arrest many. In one show, which presented "Pototo," they were presenting a change of scene and kept on showing different pictures with photographs of Presidents of the Imperialist epoch and the hardest ^{kept} saying, "throw it out in the trash." When they show one of Fidel, he says, "That one No, hang that one up." They arrested him for the shouting which took place and now they say that he is in asylum. Right now the Government has seen itself obliged to dictate that a person who traitorously abandons the country must leave his house 24 or 48 hours before taking the plane. That is to say, when they come to check his belongings, the police come and a member of the Committee of the Block and when they are going to seal the house, a policeman comes up and the same member of the Committee. This is done in order that nothing can be taken out, neither before nor afterwards. What a sad and vile task, that of the persons who are on the Committee. This measure is due, they say, to a trick of the "machazo" (guardiola). The day before embarking, he broke the furniture, the radio, the refrigerator, the television, etc., but a neighbor who heard him denounced him and, upon taking the plane they took him off and took him to the house, thus proving the civic act carried out by the neighboring "chivata," the neighboring informer (chivata is a slang word for informer). Now they do not let him leave again until he has re-

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furnished the house completely. What do you think of that?

But the constructive work of the revolution continues. What brazen people. Where everyone goes they are finishing with everything.

Now they are going to leave only one movie house per city district. The rest will be dedicated to educative talks for the people. They did not know that the Caballo was fed up with hearing the talks of the ORI on Christmas Eve. This is what he said in a talk in Mantanzas: "But of what stuff is that man made of?"

Now they are prohibiting that the doctors put on certificates of death that the death is due to cardiac collapse. Don't you see that this was a Yankee maneuver with the medics wanting to show that here everybody dies of heart attacks?

Of the control task books, they are going to take away the quota of rice for children and that of meat for persons older than 7 years and less than 65 years. To eat so much is an ugly Imperialist custom. Yesterday your aunt and I went to the stores and if you could see how funny the employees are making their tears, it makes no difference to them to have drunk before or afterwards a glass of milk or juice and say no, that they are carrying out their duty of Socialist Morality. The stores are terrible. Lineups are 500 to 1,000 persons, without exaggeration, to get a pair of stockings at \$2.80 without being wrapped up and bogar. For a few girdles that they took out, a tremendous rush was caused to such an extreme there were even shots fired. To those who receive scholarships, they are given tremendous homage.

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The Caballo (Castro) talked to them. These are the only Cuban Mothers, the others who have their sons prisoners were denying for Cuba real liberty are not Mothers, they are "bitches." Thus they are told Kuchilan, Consuelito Vidal, Cepero Brito and Eloisa Alvarez Guedes (these are keeping company together with M. Ortega, the old grandfather of Patriña, which makes one mad.) The students of Cuba have converted themselves exclusively into bribe takers for a plate of food. It is shameful. Now, not even this class, which was the purest, exists here.

Friday night, they showed by television an operation on the lung of a dog by an eminent Soviet wise man, with a marvelous Russian instruments, only one in the world and what the American doctors would have done in four or five hours, these eminent people did in five minutes. Now they did not present the preparation of the operation, nor did one see them give the stitches, nor have they told that the dog died. Afterward, they televised an exposition of unique Soviet medical products. Let them ask Boro that four injections of anesthesia weren't sufficient to extract from him a molar and afterwards they left ^{your poor grandmother} with the whole mouth ulcerated, which single dose of Russian penicillin given by a doctor at the beginning of the year almost caused her to be taken to the cemetery. Now all day long they are with the operations, but is it perhaps that the Cubans cannot forget of the many and great operations carried on by a Rodriguez Diaz, a Vicente Banet, they will forget or they will not know the ignorant ones of 1961 but the others no.

You know ~~that~~ what ~~they~~ said San Pedro (Saint Peter) said to Kennedy, "You take care of the dinner and I will take care of

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the water." Now they are carrying on a campaign about the drought to make these imbeciles believe that the lack of some foods, such as milk, is due to the drought. A lie. In Cuba for many years there was a drought, but for that reason there was no lack of milk, food, etc.. All this is lacking because of very bad administration because everything is taken away which is worth having for Russia, even the earth being carried via the docks of Regla in a Russian boat. It's a shame all that is happening in Cuba, and if some day these people leave here, they are not even going to leave any ground. But I certainly believe that they will remain in the minds of the Cuban for all the life as the very bad thing that is this Communist regime and how mistaken were all those who defended it.

Greetings to everyone over there, since I have no more for today to tell you and send affectionate greetings.

S/ Antonia

May 14, 1962

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