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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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CUBAN AUTHORITIES STATE VIEWS CONCERNING DEATH OF KENNEDY

FR Havana: BASTIAN

27 Nov 63

TO Rio de Janeiro: Foreign Ministry

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Confidential.

Soon after the death of KENNEDY several authorities and persons associated with the Cuban Government openly expressed to me their concern relative to the consequences in regard to Cuba and were unanimous in believing that any other president would be "even worse." Another concern of the Cubans was expounded in the unexpected speech by FIDEL CASTRO on Saturday when he accused the news agencies of trying to connect the Soviet Union and Cuba to the crime and asserted that the reactionaries of the United States are trying to create "a state of anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban hysteria." Further, yesterday the Foreign Ministry in an official communique confirmed that the indicated assassin tried to obtain a visa to Cuba without success and repeated that reactionary sectors tried, in that way, to involve beforehand Cuba and the Soviet Union in the events and are trying now to cover up the masterminds and real motives for the crime. There was no official announcement here of sorrow for the death of the President of the United States.

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