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BRITISH EMBASSY

No. 18

HAVANA

1055/63

July 18, 1963

My Lord,

As already reported by telegram (no. 513 of the 11th of July) Dr. Fidel Castro spent nearly five hours over luncheon in the British Embassy Residence on the 10th of July. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Roa, and by Commandant Vallejo, who is a constant companion in his joint capacities of private secretary, medical adviser and personal friend. Very few security precautions were taken both Dr. Roa and Dr. Castro, who arrived separately, were accompanied by an extra car with three or four men but only one guard was posted outside the house. The other guests were the heads of the three other Commonwealth missions in Havana, the Canadian Ambassador and the Chargés d'Affaires of India and Ghana. The diplomatic staff of this Embassy were also present.

2. I now have the honour to enclose a summary record of the conversation, or more properly, monologue. Dr. Castro listened politely to any points made to him but since he replied to each with an uninterrupted flow of half an hour or so, any conversation in the ordinary sense was impossible. This is the technique which Dr. Castro uses in television interviews when his interviewers are confined to two or three sentences in the course of a programme of three or four hours. At the end of this marathon lunch, Dr. Castro was still as energetic and loquacious as ever,

/although

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Home, K.T.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Foreign Office.

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