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IDEA 0385

10 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Mr. Tom Parrott on
10 September Concerning IDEALIST Operations
Over Cuba**

1. At approximately 10:00 on the morning of 10 September, Tom Parrott telephoned and passed on a request levied by McGeorge Bundy on behalf of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. According to Parrott, the Secretary of State expressed the hopeful desire that we not have any incidents this week. We, CIA, were asked to supply McGeorge Bundy answers to the following questions proposed by Mr. Rusk.

a. How important is it to our intelligence objectives that we overfly Cuban soil?

b. How much would our intelligence suffer if we limited our reconnaissance to peripheral activity utilizing oblique photography?

c. Is there anyone in the planning of these missions who might want to provoke an incident?

2. Tom Parrott indicated that McGeorge Bundy desired a reply by 10:30 on the same date. I expressed my surprise at the third question by Rusk and asked Tom whether it was rhetorical or were we really expected to comment on it. Mr. Parrott allowed that he was somewhat surprised by the statement but felt that some assurance by the Agency in response was in order. I contacted Mr. Reber, who at that moment was chairing a session of COMOR dealing with the first two questions. I stated Mr. Parrott's request to COMOR, and they unanimously agreed that they could not possibly finalize any conclusive statement to the questions by the 10:30 deadline; in fact, could offer no timing when a decision might be reached. I then contacted the offices of Dr. Scoville and General Carter to advise them of the White House interest. A second call from Tom Parrott indicated that Roger Hillsman had discussed the

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situation with Tom and told Tom that he would accept responsibility for advising Secretary Rusk the answers to the questions which had been proposed through McGeorge Bundy. Hilsman had scheduled an afternoon meeting with Jim Reber at which time he hoped to obtain the answers.

3. Dr. Scoville then returned my call; and after advising him of the situation at that time, he indicated that we should not be content to let Roger Hilsman handle our answers for us but rather should prepare our own paper to McGeorge Bundy stating COMOR'S views. Dr. Scoville indicated that he would pursue this matter further with Jim Reber.


Executive Officer, OSA

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