

24 January 1961

gmr

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE DCI
AND SENATOR GEORGE A. SMATHERS

The Director said that he understood that the Senator was off on a trip. The Senator said that had been the case; however, he had talked to the new President and he had asked him to stay on. The Senator indicated he would be going down later on. The Senator said that some day he hoped to come over and talk to the Director a little bit. He indicated that he is "crowded" when he returns to Miami by those who are not entirely pleased with the way things are going.

The Director said that he would like to get the Senator's ideas; that it was hard to please everybody.

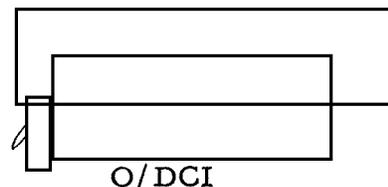
The Senator mentioned the Verona group; that "he" had been out to the Senator's house the other day. He said he was critical of certain things. The Director indicated that we were trying to do a lot of things for him.

The Senator stressed that he did not think at this time there should be any appeasement shown to Castro; no softness of any kind. He mentioned that Billy Graham had been a witness when he was talking to the new President about this matter.

The Director said he would be glad to drop down or see the Senator in his office and had wanted to be in touch with him before he left on his trip. The Director said that he was working closely with Amb. Pawley, and inquired if the Senator knew Amb. Willauer, former Ambassador to Costa Rica. The Director said we had a big team working in the field.

The Senator said that he was satisfied with the way things were going and that he thought things ought to look better pretty soon; that we could expect a normal delay. The Director said he would like to get the Senator's wisdom on the situation.

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