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US Allies Fail to Support US Policy on Cuba

In his efforts to dissuade the Castro regime from establishing diplomatic relations with East Germany, the West German ambassador told the acting Cuban foreign minister that West Germany has nothing against the Cuban Government and is neutral insofar as "the Cuban-US quarrel is concerned." The American chargé notes that probably not a single foreign chief of mission in Havana, with the exception of certain Latin American ambassadors, has condemned to high Cuban officials the violations of human rights by the Castro regime or criticized its rapprochement with the Sino-Soviet bloc.

The Canadian ambassador says he reports the US point of view to Ottawa, but the American chargé doubts that he has the influence to put his ideas across to the Canadian Government. The British ambassador and his government also appear to share the US attitude, but appear reluctant to make their views known to the press and public. The French are "disgusted" with Castro, but primarily because of his advocacy of Algerian independence. The Japanese ambassador is generally pro-US, but is mainly interested in trade. East Germany is the only Sino-Soviet bloc country with which Cuba has not yet established formal diplomatic relations. Che Guevara, as he left East Germany on 17 December after having concluded a five-year trade agreement, declared that East Germany and Cuba will establish diplomatic relations "at the proper time... and with due regard for their mutual interests."

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