

December 27, 1962

Cable from Dutch Embassy, Washington (Van Roijen), 27 December 1962

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Summary:

Van Roijen continues on the conversation he had with U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk from the last cable. Rusk believes Cuba may be aligning more with China and is factoring in Chinese interests in Cuba. However, Rusk also saw Chinese initiatives in North Korea and North Vietnam. The relationship with China is, in his words, "not a long-term worry like Moscow but a short-term worry."

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SECRET

During my talk with [US Secretary of State Dean] Rusk [vide my 1057] Rusk, in relation to his remark on a possible reorientation of Cuba toward China, revealed that he was factoring in new Chinese initiatives. These could occur as a direct reaction to possible events taking place in Havana, e.g., by a military demonstration against the off-shore islands. He however also saw the possibility of Chinese action in North Korea and furthermore singled out North Vietnam as a possible area for Chinese activities, which could cause the unstable situation in Laos to collapse. Such a Chinese initiative would, according to your colleague, face Moscow with the highly difficult choice of abandoning an ally or getting involved in a war. Therefore the relationship with Beijing is not only a "long-term worry" for Moscow but certainly also a short-term worry.

Regarding the possibility of action in Korea Rusk made clear that the US would in case of emergency this time not hesitate to use nuclear weapon at once.

Van Roijen 1058 ++