

October 18, 1962
Telegram from Polish Embassy in Washington
(Drozniak), 18 October 1962

Citation:

"Telegram from Polish Embassy in Washington (Drozniak), 18 October 1962", October 18, 1962, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Szyfrogramy from Waszyngton 1962, 6/77 w-86 t-1312, Polish Foreign Ministry Archive (AMSZ), Warsaw. Obtained by James G. Hershberg (George Washington University) and translated by Margaret K. Gnoinska (Troy University). <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115754>

Summary:

Drozniak discusses the possibility of US military action against Cuba, as well as Cuba's foreign relations with the USSR and the US.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

Polish

Contents:

Translation - English

Ciphergram No. 15383

Dispatched from Washington, D.C., on 10.18.1962 at 15:00 and received on 10.19.1962 at 2:00

Came to the Decoding Department on 10.19.1962 at 2:30

To: [Foreign Ministry Director Eugeniusz] MILNIKIEL1

From: [Ambassador Edward] DROŻNIAK2

Our [cable] 786.

[US Secretary of State Dean] Rusk focused on [discussing] the history of Soviet-American relations over the past years...They [the United States] are not going to cause bloodshed in Cuba. Undertaking a [military] invasion against Cuba, without an open act of aggression on the Cuban side, would mean that the United States could find itself isolated among its allies...When asked about the rumors regarding the possibility of the alleged mediation between the United States and Cuba [to be carried out by the Algerian revolutionary leader Ahmed] Ben Bella, he stated that it was not an option.³ They will wait for a change in the Cuban government and for Cuba to break political and military ties with the USSR. He denied rumors that there was ever a connection made between Berlin and Cuba in his conversation with [Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei] Gromyko.⁴ Cuba cannot be bargained for either for Berlin or for the [military] bases in Turkey.

[1] Eugeniusz Milnikiel (1905 -1969), former Polish ambassador to Great Britain (1953 -1956).

[2] Edward Drożniak (1902 - 1966), Poland's ambassador to the United States (1961-1966).

[3] [Ben Bella had just visited Washington, where he met with President Kennedy, and had gone on to Havana-ed.]

[4] [Gromyko, who was in the United States to attend the UN General Assembly session in New York, had come to Washington on October 18 to meet with President Kennedy and Secretary of State Rusk-ed.]