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memo w/att	<p>Lloyd N. Cutler to the President. Re: Satellite communications with Cuba. (2 pp.) <i>opened per RAC NLC -126-21-34-1-0 1/9/14</i></p>	5/29/80	A

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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May 29, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: LLOYD N. CUTLER

LNC

SUBJECT: U.S. NEWS MEDIA AND SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS WITH CUBA

I support Secretary Muskie's recommendation that under the present regulations limiting trade and transactions with Cuba, we permit payments (part of which flow to Cuba under the INTELSAT Agreements) for use of the satellite by U.S. media organizations to transmit television news and programs from Cuba.

In addition to the Secretary's reasons, I believe we would have Constitutional difficulties defending against a legal challenge to the present policy.

I do believe a sentence should be added to the press statement explaining that the Government's involvement results from its role in licensing financial transactions with Cuba rather than in licensing news broadcasts as such. A revision of the press release including such a sentence is attached.

cc: Secretary Muskie
Dr. Brzezinski
Deputy Secretary Christopher

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JCS NARA DATE 12/17/13

PRESS STATEMENT

U.S. Television Coverage of Cuba

In view of the growing media interest in television transmissions by satellite from Cuba to the United States, the United States Government will permit the use of satellite channels for the transmission of television news and programs by United States media organizations from Cuba.

[For this purpose the present regulations forbidding trade and financial transactions with Cuba will be amended to permit payments for use of the satellite by United States media organizations.]