

Subject: Castro-LBJ Memo - JFK's Courage

LBJ received a memorandum from Castro in 1964. In the memo, Castro's compliments the "political courage" of JFK.
Peter Kornbuth writes:

<quote>

"Once again, the ever tenacious Lisa Howard played the part of intermediary. In early February, Howard traveled to Havana to make another ABC TV news special on Cuba. When she returned, she carried a rather extraordinary memorandum--a "verbal message given to Miss Lisa Howard of ABC News"--addressed to Lyndon Johnson from Fidel Castro. It read:

<snip>

3. Tell the President that I understand quite well how much political courage it took for President Kennedy to instruct you [Lisa Howard] and Ambassador Attwood to phone my aide in Havana for the purpose of commencing a dialogue toward a settlement of our differences....I hope that we can soon continue where Ambassador Attwood's phone conversation to Havana left off...though I'm aware that pre-electoral political considerations may delay this approach until after November.

<snip>

<end quote>

LBJ, for political reasons, is reluctant to follow JFK's budding rapprochement with Cuba.

Kornbuth's full article is here:

<http://www.cigaraficionado.com/Cigar/Aficionado/Archives/199910/fa1099.html>