

FCO PRESS CONFERENCE. TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

CUBAN EMBASSY GUN INCIDENT

Spokesman drew attention to the following statement issued by the FCO last night, 12 September:

"We understand from the police that at about 4.30 p.m. today an incident occurred in Sussex Gardens, London W2, when a number of shots were fired by a man subsequently identified as a Third Secretary at the Cuban Embassy, Senor Medina Perez. Senor Perez has indicated to the police that he fired the shots fearing for his own safety.

Mr. Eggar asked the Cuban Ambassador to call at 9.15 p m. He said that this incident could not, under any circumstances, be justified. The British Government would not tolerate the use of firearms by diplomats in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Eggar said that the Ambassador must bear the responsibility for this grave development. The only appropriate response, Mr. Eggar said, was that he must insist that the Ambassador and Senor Perez should leave the UK as soon as possible, but at the latest by midnight tomorrow, 13 September."

In response to a question Spokesman said that any retaliation against our Embassy in Havana would be totally unjustified.

VIETNAMESE EMBASSY INCIDENT

Spokesman drew attention to the statement made by Mr. Eggar yesterday following the call by the Vietnamese Ambassador. Spokesman added that we understood from the police that they wished to question Mr. Khang on Monday and we were making appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile the police investigations were continuing and we had of course no comment to make on them. Mr. Eggar had told the Ambassador to make an urgent and careful search of the Embassy to establish whether there was another gun and if there was to surrender it immediately. In any case the Vietnamese Ambassador would be asked to call again after the police had questioned Mr. Khang.