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He'll Name New Man To Head It

Goal: Coordination Of All Agencies

By DAVID KRASLOW
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy has approved a shake-up which creates a special status for Cuba in the State Department and centralizes authority on Cuban problems.

A formal announcement is expected this week.

The key man in what one official described as a "reorganization" will be Sterling Cottrell, now deputy assistant secretary of state for Far East affairs.

Cottrell was described as a career foreign service officer with extensive service in Latin America. He has been active in this administration's program in South Viet Nam.

Cottrell will be the man in charge of Cuba, an official said. He apparently will have two titles: deputy assistant secretary for Latin America and coordinator for Cuban affairs.

"Everything on Cuba will go through his hands," an official said. "From the President on down and from the bottom up. Other agencies involved in the Cuban problem will go to him for policy guidance.

Whether this will apply to the Central Intelligence Agency could not be determined.

But officials said it definitely will apply to other agencies, such as the Justice Department, Federal Aviation Agency, and the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

All of them have been involved in various aspects of the overall Cuban problem — ransoming prisoners, restricting commercial flights to Cuba, and administering the Cuban refugee relief program.

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"These people have to have a definite place to go to for policy guidance and Cottrell will be the man," one source said. "It has been done on a sort of ad hoc basis up until now."

He said he did not believe the "reorganization" signaled a major new plan of administration action against Cuba.

Cottrell will serve as the chief deputy to Edwin Martin, assistant secretary for Latin America. He will be one of three deputies.

Cottrell moves into the vacancy created by the transfer to the Peace Corps of Richard Goodwin, controversial former White House aide who later served under Martin. But Goodwin was not Martin's chief deputy.

Cottrell's top aide will be Robert Hurwitch, now a special assistant to Martin on Cuban problems.

State Department Cuban desk officers Godfrey H. Sumner and Robert T. Foilestad will take orders from Cottrell and Hurwitch.

The reshuffling was cleared by the President this week and officials said the fact that it went to him indicated it is a major move.

"Responsibility has been scattered all over the government," one source said. "This is an attempt to pull it all together and give it more continuity."

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