

Another Mistake in Cuban Policy

The White House took quick action after it was publicly revealed that Col. Mariano Faget, who had been a high secret police official of the former Batista dictatorship in Cuba, was screening Cuban refugees for possible Communist and Castro agents. Faget will no longer be used by the U. S. immigration service to screen refugees.

Colonel Faget was not personally identified with the tortures and murders of the Batista secret police in its final struggle with the Castro and other opposition movements, but he can hardly have been ignorant of these atrocities: their purpose was public terror.

Consequently, for the United States to use Faget as an expert to assist U. S. officials in screening Cuban refugees once more seemed to put the U. S. in the embarrassing position of supporting Batista, who is poison to both

Castroite and anti-Castroite in Cuba today.

It is generally recognized that the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency made a mistake last spring in putting officers from Batista's army in high posts in the little landing force of exiles it sent against Castro, and in not working closely with the major underground.

Castro has managed to disillusion a good many of his former supporters (primarily so far his middle and upper-class supporters). However, even staunchly anti-Castro refugees are still overwhelmingly anti-Batista, and found it shocking that the U. S. should place confidence in Batista stalwarts.

Cuba is no simple, two-sided affair in which one side is all Communist and all evil, and the other side is all anti-Communist and therefore automatically good. Any policy based on this grotesque oversimplification was bound to get the United States into trouble.

CPYRGHT