

NEW YORK
HERALD TRIBUNE

APR 20 1964

STATINTL

'Cuba and Castro Today'— An Interesting, Candid Look

By John Horn

If there is to be a "candid re-evaluation" of our Cuban policy, as Sen. William Fulbright advocates, it is necessary for the doors of information to be opened so that enlightened public opinion may be formed.

The television beginning was made yesterday by ABC-TV's "Cuba and Castro Today," a candid film document of what meets the eye on the tight little Red Isle and some of what doesn't. The footage was shot over a period of four weeks earlier this year.

Surface details were vivid and memorable: Fidel Castro bouncing babies, boastful of his cattle, being bussed by adoring women, the traveling arsenal of his bodyguards' small arms, the fervent student idolization of the Maximum Leader, and the contrast of Havana's night-club belly dancers and girl soldiers.

Portions seem to have been included for sensation and cloak and dagger, such as a rehabilitation project for prostitutes, and silhouetted anti-Castro women speaking of terror. The latter's accusations were so diffusely generalized as to sound like crank complaints. Real opposition would hardly seek publicity in Castro-approved (but uncensored) picture-taking.

In interviews with Lisa Howard, who narrated commendably, Maj. Ernesto (Che) Guevara spoke of trade with the West and failure of the American blockade, and Castro scoffed at police-state charges and reiterated hope for normalization of relations with the United States.

TV Review

Producer - director - writer Harry Rasky did a fine job of putting together an always-interesting candid-camera look at Cuba today. Nevertheless it was primarily a tourist's view to be weighed with thought and caution.

Cuba's danger, now that the Russian nuclear death stings have been removed, is its training of Communists in political guerrilla warfare to be exported to the rest of the world, particularly the Western Hemisphere. The subject was briefly mentioned in the script, but Castro evaded Miss Howard's questions in that vein.

The importance of this issue, naturally unfiled, may have been unintentionally minimized for the general TV audience to almost vanishing point in the dazzle of stunning visual evidence that was abundantly photographable.

Castro: Let's Give and Take

Premier Castro said in an interview broadcast last night he believes both the U. S. and Cuba should make concessions toward restoring normal relations.

He said he once had felt that President Kennedy "was in the way of persuading himself of his mistakes about

Cuba," and that some sort of change in U. S. policy had been in the making. He indicated Cuba is watching and waiting with regard to President Johnson's administration.

Premier Castro's interview with Lisa Howard of the American Broadcasting Co. was recorded in Havana Feb. 12 and appeared as part of a documentary.