

Soviet Union Has Attempted For Years to Establish Base For Latin American Efforts

Pushed Out of Mexico, Reds Moved to Batista's Cuba — When Castro Came to Power, the Opportunity Blossomed.

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THE SOVIET UNION HAS ATTEMPTED for years to establish a beachhead in the Western Hemisphere. Mexico was the first center for Communist efforts to promote subversion and revolution.

Pushed out of Mexico, the Russians moved on to Cuba, which became the center of the apparatus that distributed money, agents and instructions to Communist parties in Latin America. This occurred in the time of Fulgencio Batista's regime in Cuba.

An effort was made to take over Guatemala and this would have succeeded except for a successful counteroperation by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Cuba, under Fidel Castro, finally presented an ideal opportunity. United States agents who had infiltrated Latin American Communist parties said that the program to take over Cuba and use it as a base for subversion was explained to the Latin American Communist parties at the Russian party congress in January 1960.

It was after this, in July 1960, that Premier Khrushchev promised to protect the Cuban revolution.

"The United States now obviously plans perfidious criminal steps against the Cuban people," he declared. "The peoples of the Socialist countries will help their Cuban brothers to uphold their independence. If need be, Soviet artillery (the rocket force) can support the Cuban people with their rocket fire, should the aggressive forces in the Pentagon dare to start intervention against Cuba."

LARGE AMOUNTS of Russian arms were subsequently supplied to Cuba. The number of light weapons, suitable for guerrilla operations, was far more than was needed for the Cuban army and militia.

After the shipment of medium-range rockets and jet bombers, United States officials described Cuba as an offensive military base. This was not true. The armament, even though it could strike deeply into the United States, was defensive. The means

required for offensive action—large numbers of troops and the amphibious equipment to transport them—were lacking.

Cuba is now a heavily protected base in Latin America suitable for the export of revolution and for the training of revolutionaries, saboteurs and agents. It is the site of a school to which Latin Communists come for training in all the arts of subversion and revolution. From this school they are returned to their own countries to promote Communist revolutions.

There is ample documentation for this, even though Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara declared at his press conference Feb. 6 that he had no evidence "that Cuba is being used as a base for subversion directed against other countries."

CASTRO ATTEMPTED in an amateurish way to export his revolution shortly after he seized power. A report by the State Department April 3, 1961, said: "Under Castro, Cuba has already become a base or staging area for revolutionary activity throughout the continent. In prosecuting the war against the hemisphere, Cuban embassies in Latin America work in close collaboration with iron curtain diplomatic missions and with Soviet intelligence services."

In 1959, the Castro government aided or supported armed invasions of Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. These projects, small-scale amateurish imitations of Castro's invasion of Cuba, all failed.

More recently, the major subversive and sabotage efforts have been directed at Venezuela and Peru.

"The present strategy of Fidelismo," the State Department declared, "is to provoke revolutionary situations in other republics through the indoctrination of selected individuals from other countries, through assistance to revolutionary exiles, through incitement to mass agitation and through political and propaganda operations of Cuban embassies."

Papers seized in a raid on the Cuban Embassy in Lima, Peru, in November 1960, showed the extent and variety of clandestine Castroite activities there. Havana now has a radio, "Voice of the Peruvian Revolution," bearing propaganda for "national liberation" and the destruction of imperialism.

DOCUMENTS MADE PUBLIC in El Salvador March 12, 1961, establish that large sums of money have been coming into El Salvador through the Cuban Embassy to finance pro-Communist student groups plotting the overthrow of the government.

One of the passengers on a plane that crashed near Lima Nov. 27, 1962, was a high-ranking Castro agent who had been in Brazil purportedly attending a United Nations regional conference. The agent, Ceparao Bonilla, was to act as liaison between Castro and an organization of Brazilian rebels supported by the Brazilian Communist Party.

Bonilla carried a document dealing with the peasants who were sympathetic to the Communist cause and information regarding a meeting to be set up in Brazil of the Brazilian peasants, the Brazilian Communist Party and Castro agents.

There are reliable reports from a British official of British Guiana that small arms have been shipped to Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan for use in Communist jungle training camps in British Guiana. Jagan and his wife are Communists.

AT THE TIME of the November 1960 riots in Venezuela, the government announced the discovery of high-powered radio transmitters and receivers in the possession of Cubans in Caracas. Four Venezuelan electric power stations were dynamited Oct. 7, 1962. The Venezuelan representative to the Organization of American States, Nelson Himiob, presented a report to the OAS outlining the record of cables and radio messages sent from Havana to order the sabotage. Extensive sabotage was ordered

in Venezuela at the time of the October crisis over Russian missiles in Cuba.

Representative William C. Bray (Rep.), Indiana, says the Russians have organized schools of sabotage, subversion and revolution in Cuba. He said there were five Russian generals participating and that the whole is under the command of a Russian general.

Ernesto (Che) Guevara, author of an excellent book on guerrilla warfare, is said to be a leading instructor. The school trains Communist nationals from all over Latin America and returns them to foment revolutions.

IN THE PENTAGON, the sentiment is that the longer this revolutionary operation is permitted to continue the more dif-

icult it will be to eliminate it. In the meantime, there will be a succession of Communist uprisings in Latin America, masterminded from Cuba by the Russian experts established there.

This danger, it is felt in the Pentagon, is far more serious than any amount of arms that are sent to Cuba.

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