

NSC BRIEFING

15 March 1960

CUBA

- I. Cuba becoming a center for Latin American Communist activities.
- A. Hemispheric "peace" conference planned for Havana in May or June.
1. Representatives of seven LA affiliates of ^{COMMUNIST-FRONT} World Peace Council met in Havana last week to prepare for conference.
2. A visiting Soviet "jurist" and a French woman member of WPC also attended preparatory session.
3. Details of preparatory meeting reported immediately by New China News Agency (Chinese Communist), which has branch offices in Havana. 25X1
- B. Conference would implement one of plans developed [redacted] in Moscow [redacted] at time of 21st CPSU Congress in early 1959. 25X1
1. At Moscow meetings, Communists agreed to strengthen "peace" movement, launch ^{PROPAGANDA} attacks on US missions and bases, and call a continental peace conference by mid-1960.
2. Peace conference could serve as vehicle to promote some of objectives of a "people's congress," also planned in Moscow in early 1959.
- C. Popular Socialist party (Communist) of Cuba held plenary session beginning 29 February, which other LA Communist leaders attended.
1. Scheduled 8th PSP congress for 14 July; last congress was in 1952.

State Department review completed

- D. PSP giving open support to "week of solidarity with the struggles of the LA peoples," 20-27 March, called by Communist-infiltrated Cuban Labor Confederation.
- E. "Casa de las Americas" in Cuba, run by pro-Communist wife of education minister, is promoting "friends of Cuba" societies in most other LA countries.
1. Societies are, in effect, Communist fronts. Active in propaganda, "cultural" affairs.

II. Sino-Soviet bloc continues active support for Castro.

- A. Sino-Soviet propaganda repeating Castro's anti-US charges.

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C. Representatives of Polish foreign trade organization reported by US Embassy Warsaw to be departing soon for Cuba to discuss supplying foundry and rolling mill installations and other capital goods.

1. Polish press reports recent purchase of 50,000 tons Cuban sugar and that Cuba wants Polish "investment goods" in exchange.
2. East Germans and Czechs already active commercially in Cuba.

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III. ~~Inside-Cuba~~, Officially-inspired anti-US frenzy continues.

A. Union of Guantanamo base workers issued statement 14 March criticizing working conditions on base and alleged abuses of US military personnel.

1. Volume of rumors of Cuban intention to provoke an incident at base has markedly increased in last 10 days and may presage formal demand for US evacuation.

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B. Civilian militia and "youth brigades" continue being organized.

D. Castro is using Cuban diplomatic posts in many countries, notably Bern, Lisbon and Latin American capitals, to distribute violently anti-US propaganda.

1. Official notes to other diplomatic missions as well as public handouts are issued.
2. In Guatemala, Cuban ambassador has started placing ads in Guatemalan newspapers attacking Sec'y Herter and US policy in Latin America.

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