

## CUBA

- I. The Castro regime continues to further world Communist objectives in Latin America.
- A. Soviet, Chinese, Czech, and other Bloc delegates, as well as Communists from various Latin American countries, are now in Havana for the Fourth National Congress of the Youth Section of the Cuban Communist party.
1. This week-long congress, which opened on Monday, has been accorded TV time and other facilities by the regime.
- B. A preparatory meeting of the Communist-front Latin American youth Congress is scheduled for Havana on 25 April; arrangements for this are probably being made at the current Communist gathering.
1. A Cuban mission is now touring Latin America to publicize the preparatory meeting and inviting youth groups to attend.
2. The head of the mission, Dr. Carlos Olivares (oh-lee-vär'es), is an official of Castro's "26th of July Movement" and a close associate of Raul Castro.
- C. The Youth Congress is only one of several such Latin American Communist efforts centered in Cuba.
1. A Latin American "Peace" Conference is planned for May or June in Cuba.
2. Plans, but no date, have also been announced for "a great Latin American congress to create the apparatus to fight the common enemy, imperialism."
3. A conference of "democratic political and intellectual leaders" of Latin America is planned for 30 April in Cuba, and this as well as the hemisphere labor meetings which are expected is almost certain to be Communist-dominated.

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II. Meanwhile, the trend continues toward closer economic and "cultural" ties with the Sino-Soviet bloc.

A. The trade and payments agreement signed with Poland on 31 March was supplemented by an agreement for technical cooperation, scientific assistance, and credit for the purchase of industrial equipment.

1. Items to be imported from Poland include helicopters, other aircraft, foundries, plants for the manufacture of cement and construction materials, and various types of machinery.
2. This followed the recently concluded trade agreements with the Soviet Union and East Germany.

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B. The first shipment of Russian crude oil is en route to Cuba, where it is to be processed in government-operated refineries.

1. The head of the government's petroleum organization has announced grandiose plans for a chain of government-operated gas stations using Soviet petroleum.
2. Plans have also been reported for eventual Cuban exports of petroleum products refined from Soviet crude.
  - a. These latter plans, seemingly over-ambitious at present, may be based on the expectation of taking over the Texaco refinery in Cuba which presently imports Venezuelan crude and exports various refined products.

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III. Domestically, the Castro regime is tightening its political controls.

A. Recent anti-Communist demonstrations by university students have evidently led Castro to step up his plans to dominate the universities and student groups.

1. In line with Castro's equating "anti-Communism" with "counterrevolution," the government-dominated leaders of the principal university student organizations have formed special courts to try students guilty of "counterrevolutionary crimes."

2. Meanwhile, Castro reportedly is now selecting 2,000 loyal students from rural areas to attend the university at government expense; he plans to use these students as "shock troops" to assure control of the university.

IV. And as background for all these developments, the anti-US mouthings of Castro and others, as well as the personal vilification of President Eisenhower by Radio Mambi and other government-controlled outlets, go on, and on, and on, in a seemingly endless tirade.

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