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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: Peiping's Exchange Program for Africa and  
Latin America

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1. Peiping has been steadily reaching out for wider influence in Africa and Latin America mainly at the expense of the West but also to some extent in competition with Moscow. Overall, it has so far made only small inroads on both continents, but its program is a relatively new and expanding one. Key building-blocks in this program are political and cultural exchanges and an overlapping propaganda activity. In their main lines the efforts directed toward Africa parallel those toward Latin America.

A. Travel exchanges: The highlights of the travel program so far this year have been the visits to China of President Nkrumah of Ghana, President Dorticos of Cuba and then-Vice President Goulart of Brazil on one side and, on the other, the tour of a Chinese "friendship" delegation through eight West African countries and the visit of a Chinese trade delegation to several Latin American countries.

1. The number of delegations traveling between Communist China and Africa in 1960 increased to 145 from 50 in 1959. 116 of the 145 were African delegations visiting China and 29 were Chinese delegations to various African areas. During the first six months of 1961 more Chinese delegations (27) visited Africa than any other area. During the same period, 29 African delegations visited Communist China. The most important group sent by the Chinese was a delegation from the Sino-African People's Friendship Association led by the head of the association whose four-month tour covered Guinea, Mali,

Ghana, Niger, Upper Volta, Senegal, Togo, and Dahomey. Some of the African leftist leaders who have traveled to China have come away with Chinese financial subsidies. Other aid to African nationalists has been channeled through Chinese representatives connected with the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization with headquarters in Cairo. Among the recipients of this aid have been the Algerian rebels, the Gizenga regime in the Congo, the radical Zanzibar Nationalist Party, and members of the terrorist Union of the Cameroons People's Organization.

2. In 1959, some 400 Latin Americans traveled to Communist China, with the Chinese paying all or part of their expenses. This number--three and one-half times the total for each of the two preceding years--may have been equaled in 1960 and 1961. Among them were Latin American Communists who went for training or in connection with interparty conferences. For example, top representatives of 12 Latin American Communist parties met in Peiping as a group in early 1959, after the 21st Soviet party congress, to discuss revolutionary tactics with the Chinese leaders. Other Latin American visitors to China have included parliamentary groups from Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Costa Rica as well as such Latin American political figures as Brazilian peasant leader Francisco Juliao. During the first six months of 1961, 42 Latin American delegations visited Communist China, while the traffic in the opposite direction was 17.

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B. Propaganda: Concurrently with its travel program, the Chinese reach out to still wider audiences through radio broadcasts and other propaganda media.

1. Peiping beams regular programs to African listeners in English, French, Portuguese, and Arabic. In addition, Cantonese-language broadcasts are directed toward Chinese minorities, which number about 6,000 in South Africa, 5,000 in the Malagasy Republic, and 16,000 on Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. This August, Peiping began broadcasts twice daily to Africa in Swahili, the lingua franca of eastern and parts of central Africa. This marked Peiping's first regularly scheduled broadcasting in a native African tongue; previously only the Soviet Union among the bloc broadcast in Swahili. Other propaganda efforts directed to Africa include the opening of news agencies in African capitals, the dissemination of periodicals and publications, the provision of educational facilities, and the promotion of friendship societies. On the "people diplomacy" level, a Chinese-African People's Friendship Association was formed in April 1960 to promote cultural contacts with Africa. Under its auspices, touring dance ensembles and opera troupes from Peiping have toured the African continent.

2. Latin America is the target of a growing volume of propaganda through radio, press, film, and other media. Peiping is now broadcasting to Latin America in both Spanish and Portuguese. It also publishes Spanish-language editions of the propaganda magazines China Reconstructs and China Pictorial. Moreover, Peiping now has pro-Chinese "cultural institutes" in tne of the twenty Latin American countries, most of which have been founded in cooperation with local pro-Communist groups since 1958. In March 1960, a China - Latin America Friendship Association was formed in Peiping to sponsor activities on the "peoples diplomacy" level. In November 1959 the Chinese Communists began publication of a Chinese-language newspaper in Cuba, intended primarily for the island's 30,000 overseas Chinese but directed also to 35,000 Chinese elsewhere in Latin America.

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