

~~SECRET~~

OCI comment for NIC pre-watch agenda - CUBA

1. There are continuing strong indications that the Castro regime is now, and has been for some months, engaged in an intensified effort to pressure Communist and pro-Communist revolutionary groups in other Latin American countries toward early violent action. This Cuban effort is supplemented by Cuban assistance in the form of money, training, propaganda support, and—in the case of the Venezuelan guerrillas—weapons support. Despite the concerted Cuban effort, however, the Venezuelan FALN remains the only significant revolutionary effort now underway in Latin America ~~which~~ in which Castro ~~is~~ appears to have ~~the~~ ~~capability~~ strong influence. In ~~some~~ ^{the} other Latin American countries, his influence over ^{important} groups of leftist extremists is not great and these groups themselves seem to lack the capability of carrying out the successful overthrow of regimes in power. Nevertheless, the alumni of Cuban training schools are a growing band in many Latin American countries, and a significant proportion of these people can probably be considered under Cuban control.

2. The Cuban shipment of weapons to the Venezuelan FALN in November was a departure from previous Cuban practice. ~~The~~ Cubans have tried to avoid open implication and have told would-be guerrillas to buy or steal their own weapons. This Cuban action seems to reflect an increased Cuban desperation and willingness to take greater risks in order to achieve "progress" in the Latin American "anti-imperialist revolution." It is therefore possible that the same desperation may be reflected in other aspects of the Cuban subversive effort in Latin America. Though there is no confirmation of a Cuban-inspired assassination plot against Nicaraguan—or any other Latin American—leaders, such a plot or plots are not outside the realm of possibility.

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