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JPRS L/9630

25 March 1981

Latin America Report

(FOUO 7/81)

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

MORA HERMAN COMMENTS ON 'U.S. ESPIONAGE NETWORK' IN MOZAMBIQUE

PA122030 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Mar 81

[By Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] [No dateline given]--The crushing of a U.S. espionage network in Mozambique has revealed the interference of the U.S. Government in that African country.

On 4 March, the Mozambique Foreign Ministry announced the expulsion of six U.S. agents who were operating under diplomatic cover in Maputo.

On the previous day, the London newspaper AFRICAN COMMUNIST had exposed CIA activities in Africa, including assassinations, the recruiting of mercenaries and support for counterrevolutionary organizations.

In this effort, the CIA acts in close cooperation with other intelligence services, particularly that of South Africa.

The agents expelled from Maputo were: Frederick B. Lundahl, chief of the network, and Louis Leon Ollivier, both second secretaries at the U.S. Embassy; their wives Elizabeth and Ginger, who participated in the espionage activities; and Arthur and Patricia Russel, a brother and sister who were the communications officers and secretary, respectively, of the embassy's political section.

The network has continually changed chiefs and agents and was functioning in the country long before Mozambique obtained independence in June, 1975. During the past 6 years it made a great effort to recruit Mozambique citizens.

One of those recruited traitors, who was arrested along with other accomplices, is Alcides Chivite, a former armed forces captain.

Chivite, who was recruited in 1979, passed to his CIA contact, Louis Leon Ollivier, military secrets and a great amount of information on the liberation organizations of Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The latter information was turned over by the CIA to South African intelligence agencies, which used it against the revolutionary fighters.

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Early in the morning of 30 January of this year, a South African terrorist cell launched a surprise attack on the suburb of Matola, 16 km from downtown Maputo, where revolutionary leaders of the African National Congress live.

In the action, 11 revolutionaries fighters were killed.

Some days before, Chivite had passed information to the CIA about those South African leaders who lived in Matola.

The Matola events generated a wide wave of protests throughout Africa and other parts of the world. A gross violation of Mozambique territory had been committed to carry out a typical terrorist, criminal action.

Almost coinciding with the break-up of this U.S. spy network, it has been reported that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has decided to free the CIA of the restrictions of the so-called "code of conduct" formulated by the Congress and now annulled by the President.

Thus, CIA agents will not have the slightest scruples about carrying out their usual crimes in any part of the world.

On the other hand, the crushing of the spy network in Mozambique once again confirms the constant actions by the U.S. Government to contain or defeat the struggle for the liberation of that continent.

This effort includes assassination, terrorism, destabilization campaigns and all the criminal resources employed by the CIA in the world.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

MALMIERCA COMMENTS ON NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

'AFRIQUE-ASIE' Report

LD091057 Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 2-15 Mar 81 pp 18-19

[Wilfred Burchett dispatch: "Defeat for the Grave-diggers"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi--In an exclusive interview with AFRIQUE-ASIE [in New Delhi during the 9-13 February nonaligned conference] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said he is optimistic about the nonaligned movement's future despite the activities of those who clearly only want to sabotage or bury it.

"Before the sixth summit in Havana," he recalled, "the United States and its closest allies mounted a broad campaign to prevent that conference even being held in Cuba. They placed many obstacles in our way. The summit was, nonetheless, held in Havana and a record number of heads of state, government chiefs and movement leaders were present. Later the same troublemakers tried to prevent Cuba from carrying out its duties as chairman. They made every effort to divide and undermine the movement. Today, at this conference, efforts have again been made to provoke a crisis.

"For instance, there have been debates on various aspects of the international situation. But questions have been raised not for their own sake but as means of dividing and weakening the movement. However, we are confident the conference will give additional proof of the movement's ability, as an independent force, to settle a number of international problems. All attempts to paralyze or divide the movement will be doomed to failure."

How does Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca view the movement's tasks in the immediate future?

[Malmierca] Imperialist plans to bring the world back to a new cold war era must be neutralized. The imperialists must be prevented from launching attacks on some member states. The conference began well by expressing its solidarity with the Mozambican people who are the victims of South Africa's barbarous aggressions.... However, for some countries present here, the main aim is to attack the foundations of the movement and build up obstacles to its development. An example of this is the attitude adopted by the ASEAN countries. Did they ever mention the Chinese aggression against Vietnam? There was no reaction from them against this marked act of aggression. Obviously, when you know that these ASEAN countries provided the bases

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from which U.S. aircraft attacked Kampuchea and Vietnam, how could it be questions of principle which prompt them to raise the problem of relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea?

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca told me that as soon as it began he had immediately been sent to Baghdad and Tehran by non-aligned president Fidel Castro to offer the movement's "good office" in settling the conflict in a "political, peaceful, fair and honorable" way. Since then he has also made several visits to the two capitals. "Although we cannot say that we are on the point of attaining our objectives, we have confidence in the fact that the two sides have growing understanding and awareness of the dangers posed by the war's continuation. The danger concerns not only Iraq and Iran but the possibility of war spreading to other states. In addition it could have a negative effect on the Palestinian people's struggle and involve the risk of intervention by the imperialist powers. That is why we will continue our efforts, since we think that communication has been established between the two countries. We are convinced that we will be able to make an even more useful future contribution to ending this war."

If the results of this conference are examined calmly it must be admitted that--despite pessimistic comment in the corridors that New Delhi achieved less than Havana, and despite all the maneuvers made to try to gradually strip nonalignment of its content and undermine the movement--those who despise progressive nonalignment and those who are digging nonalignment's grave did not achieve their end. But the difficulties still facing the movement cannot be disguised nor the necessary vigilance underestimated.

As Isidoro Malmierca stressed: "The struggle for peace is one of the main aims for which our movement was founded 20 years ago. Peace is still threatened today. But the defense of peace means the defense of the gains already wrested by our peoples. In these circumstances, we believe that this conference makes quite a considerable contribution to our movement's struggle for peace, as it did when it was founded in 1961."

By adhering to the principles of nonalignment and using skillful diplomacy did not the Vietnamese succeed in thwarting Chinese maneuvers aimed at making people accept that the main incompatibility was between the Indochinese states and the ASEAN countries? Did it not prove on the other hand, that if there was any incompatibility it was between the Indochinese states and China? That is no small achievement.

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Further Statement

FI.091603 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Cuba's efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict were stressed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca during an interview published today by the daily GRANMA. The Cuban minister today is meeting in Geneva with foreign ministers of India and Zambia and with the chief of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization to examine the Iraq-Iran war topic.

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Malmierca noted the New Delhi meeting's ratification of the decision adopted by the Sixth Nonaligned Countries Summit Conference of leaving empty the Kampuchea seat [in the United Nations]. The Cuban foreign minister called blind or well-paid Singapore's foreign minister for this attempt to support the return of the seat to the representatives of the murdering and criminal Pol Pot regime.

Referring to Afghanistan, Malmierca stated that this issue has been distorted by the information agencies of the Western countries with respect to the New Delhi's final proposals which included the withdrawal of troops from that country. Malmierca recalled that the only superpower mentioned by its name in the final declaration was the United States, which was condemned for supporting Israel. Summarizing the New Delhi meeting, the Cuban foreign minister accused the international information agencies of having been used to misinform. As is known to all, those information services are mainly in the hands of imperialist consortia and their lackeys.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PROBLEMS IN HEALTH CARE FIELD DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 2 Jan 81 pp 4-9

[Report on interview by Frank Hechavarria with Dr Adolfo Valdivia and Yolanda Diaz Rodriguez, respectively secretary general and secretary of work organization and salaries of the National Health Workers Union; date and place not given]

[Text] For a public health worker, the word "optimization" means better quality in the care he gives the public, more perseverance and effort in his job, and a greater awareness that his task is very necessary if we are to have a healthy people. In a general sense, the word means a leap--a leap toward the near future.

Thanks to the union and the workers themselves, the optimization of medicine, which was launched by the Ministry of Public Health as one more program among the many being carried out by the various authorities and directorates, has become a mainspring for achieving real successes in the quality of medical services. And it was the secretary general of the union for that sector, Dr Adolfo Valdivia, who explained how a word turned into a real movement:

"For the union's purposes, optimization is not a program, nor is it one more program; instead, it is the common denominator for all union actions, because even something that could be regarded as having no direct connection with the quality of patient care--as would be the case, for example, with the internal life of the union sections themselves--is considered by us to have a very direct connection with that activity. The reason is that to the extent that a union section functions better and develops its internal life more satisfactorily, it will be in a better position to help raise the quality of those services."

Feeling that the subject should be traced from its origins, we asked Dr Valdivia how the task of carrying forward the optimization of medicine began.

He explained, "It should be pointed out that beginning with the observations made by the leader of the revolution at the Havana Party Assembly and the prior process of electing new officers, the union undertook to make a greater effort to define the aspects of emulation, agreeing that to the same extent that we succeeded in transforming emulation and relating it not to quantitative aspects but to the qualitative elements of work, we would be harmonizing the aspirations pursued through the MINSAP [Ministry of Public Health] optimization program and our own objectives of better quality in patient care, inasmuch as our aspiration was to work to find quality indicators for the system's health care work."

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"That effort lasted more than 2 years. In its earliest phase, it began in limited form in Havana on a trial basis. With the experience gained, it was later distributed throughout the rest of the country, and in our opinion, it is now in the consolidation phase."

The union leader explained, "We say that because this work already covers more than 60 percent of the provinces where it is consolidated, and in other provinces it is moving a little more slowly as regards the establishment of genuine emulation that will cover qualitative aspects of health care work."

He added, "Very early in the process of developing what was called 'microemulation for efficiency,' we could see that according to the quality indicators established by the microemulation program, few units in the country were performing satisfactorily. As time went on, the number of units up to standard continued to increase, and by now we can speak of provinces that are up to standard."

We asked Dr Valdivia what factors contributed in the beginning to the fact that only a few units were meeting the parameters established in the microemulation program, and he answered:

"Well, there was the contradiction that in 1977, more than 85 percent of the public health units had the Heroes of Moncada banner and about 65,000 or 70,000 of our workers were classified as 'advanced.' But--and this was demonstrated--it was made clear in Fidel's remarks that this did not coincide with people's opinion of the work being done. In other words, there were complaints about the emergency rooms, about mistreatment in the hospitals, and about the service in the polyclinics."

Polyclinics Versus Emergency Rooms

We asked, "Doctor, something we have noted is that patients go to the emergency rooms more frequently than to the polyclinics. Is that because of the poor work you mentioned?"

Valdivia said, "Of course. It is influenced by the quality of work provided in the polyclinics and the lack of confidence in them, and even by the facilities provided for the public by the polyclinic itself, because it is necessary to wait several hours in a polyclinic, a person frequently has to get up early to be sure of getting in, and he has to go more than once. But in an emergency room the problems are solved better in a matter of hours, and in the opinion of many people, even the quality is better, although that is not always entirely correct. In reality, this distorts the concept of the Emergency Care System and overburdens the emergency rooms to the detriment of real emergency cases. This battle sustains the existence of a weak spot, which is the quality of primary care and the lack of care present in the polyclinic as compared to what is available at the hospital."

Valdivia illustrated his point: "The fact is that of every 100 persons presenting themselves at an emergency room, no more than 10 percent really require hospitalization. Despite that, we find ourselves with a group of so-called emergencies which are not emergencies, but which do require care that should have been provided in a polyclinic at a given time. All of this makes it clear that there is a deficiency in the quality of services at the primary level."

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The health union's secretary added, "This is not accidental, and the emulation indicators for polyclinics made this clear: it was seen that the basic activities of the polyclinics were not being performed. Because we based our conclusions not on subjective analyses but on quantitative and qualitative work indicators that can measure how efficiently a specific unit works. Moreover, as emulation proceeded, it was possible to observe that the units we could include in the group of units meeting the standard were those where the smallest number of such problems occurred. They were units that enjoyed prestige among the people they served. And the polyclinics which were lagging farthest behind in this emulation system, which showed the greatest weaknesses in union work and experienced administrative problems, and which were guilty of violations of socialist legality were those which did not comply and in which there were serious problems and many complaints from the public."

Problems Still Exist in Hospitals

We asked Dr Valdivia: "And was that situation also found in the hospitals?"

He said, "The same was true in the hospitals. Because optimization cannot be viewed only in terms of the patient or relative who complains. That is one part of the problem. Unfortunately, not everyone is yet able, when a situation of this kind occurs, to demand his or her rights. Sometimes because they are afraid and sometimes because they do not know how far their rights go. But even so, there are other kinds of examples--other kinds of mistreatment--which are not perceived by the patient but which become obvious precisely through the analyses of output and work efficiency in the unit. This was illustrated in the remarks made on the occasion of Fidel's pronouncement. That is, slides are lost, lab tests are mislaid, and so on. In general, a high percentage of those things have been overcome, but there are other kinds of mistreatment--now the slide is no longer lost, but it is not prepared at the proper time; the lab test is not lost, but it could have been done better and completed according to specific technical standards. As you see, the patient is not directly mistreated, but he is kept at the hospital unnecessarily because a number of parameters are not observed as far as making up an adequate clinical history is concerned. All of this needs to be prevented, so that resources are not wasted in providing care, so that there is constantly better utilization of available bed space, and so on. There is an indicator that can measure that, and we are measuring it. These are indicators of the economic type, inasmuch as this is an expensive resource which, in the final analysis, comes out of the national economy. And the patient who remains in a hospital longer than required because of defective care is a man who is kept away from production, and this, if you add up the millions of patients admitted, gives us a measure of what a great negative effect we are having on the economy.

"Emulation has been uncovering all those things, and as it is perfected, it becomes a more demanding mechanism, since we are aiming at higher levels, and this generates all kinds of internal activity among the workers as a body, since this collective type of mechanism constrains us to seek solutions. There exists a moral pressure to compare one's unit with all similar units, and there is also internal pressure from the workers who, from the collective standpoint, hope to begin living up to the standard. Naturally, they do not want to be in the group of laggards or those not meeting the standard."

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Present State of Emulation

We reminded Dr Valdivia that at the beginning of his remarks, he mentioned provinces that are up to standard, but we insisted that he tell us how the checkups and fulfillment by the units were coming along.

"Well, we can say that at the moment--at the time of the latest emulation checkup--67 percent of the emulating units in the country were fulfilling the requirements. We must explain that although those units are not providing the optimum service we seek, they are centers that have gradually been improving their quality and the care given their patients and that their output, measured by the microemulation indicators, is acceptable at present. This enables us to hope not only that the number will increase but also that the group will include units which--like some that we already have now--are really an example of what patient care must be."

Dental Clinics and Their Problems

Valdivia mentioned that one type of unit experiencing the most difficulties in meeting the standard is the dental clinic.

He explained, "Those units have some problems which, without this emulative mechanism, would remain under the surface. In other words, a dental clinic that is kept clean, does not mistreat its patients directly, and accomplishes certain tasks is apparently a good clinic. But when its indicators are analyzed, they may expose a high level of absenteeism and a low utilization rate as far as scheduled working hours are concerned, many times for reasons which they try to include in the category of factors not imputable to the unit. But a thorough analysis shows that those factors are indeed imputable to the unit. We find, for example, that few new appointments are being made available to the public because internal productivity is getting into a vicious circle in which we see that the patient who is being taken care of is satisfied, while the one who has not been able to get into the dental care system finds it very difficult to get in. Another problem, as an example, is that a patient's treatment is completed and he needs a dental prosthesis, either partial or total. When that happens, the patient begins a new cycle of waiting, sometimes for a very long time, so that he can get his prosthesis. The result is that if looked at superficially, any of those units might be regarded as a magnificent unit that has no problems in providing care."

Giving Awards Real Significance

We pointed out to the union leader that the work that has been done--the use of genuine indicators spotlighting shortcomings that used to be ignored--has apparently increased the effectiveness of emulation. Dr Valdivia said emphatically:

"Certainly the result has been that emulation's prestige has been recovered in these past few years. In 1977 there were a little over 1,300 emulation units, and approximately 85 percent of them had Heroes of Moncada banners. In 1979, it had dropped to far below 40 percent. In other words, it turned out that in the final rating for 1979, which was based on the results those units had achieved month after month, it was shown that they were not achieving the levels they themselves had approved--that they were below what was required to fulfill their work plan. And naturally, if they do not fulfill it, they cannot keep the banner."

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He said, "We were proposing as a standard of definition that for the purposes of health care work, it was preferable to have a small number of 'Moncada' units but to be sure that where one existed, it would be a unit that really deserved that distinction, and that we should not have the situation, which exists in our sector and many others, in which the Heroes of Moncada banner has been losing its significance to the public or the person using that center's services because it is not representative of what is really happening there. And then, we found that the banner was being turned into a piece of decoration that does not motivate anyone. Because of that, our work is aimed at making sure that where that award is displayed, the people will really know that they can enter there with full confidence. They will know that while they do not yet have all the refined care that we hope to have and that we are obligated to provide, that is a place which is seriously striving to gradually improve the level of care for the people and where adequate conditions exist for providing that care at this time. We want the people to find that in that unit a struggle is underway for optimization and that its workers are permeated by the importance and necessity of achieving it."

Case of the Nurses

We asked, "Doctor, how has this struggle for optimization proceeded in the specific case of the nursing service?"

The secretary general of the health workers said, "Unquestionably, there is obvious progress in that direction. There has been a lot of talk about the nurses. And at times, one thing was even made out to be the result of the other: it was said that mistreatment was almost the exclusive province of the nurses and that the nurse was a worker who mistreated the public, that the nurse was prone to absenteeism, and so on. And we must say that this has been unfair. The problem arises because it is the nurse who is always at the patient's side. In the second place, nursing--a most noble profession--had been deprived of a whole series of specific moral incentives. Extraordinary demands were made of the nurses, but they were given very little incentive or recognition, and an opinion spread which was correct in a very small number of cases. In other words, the opinion concerning our entire personnel was based on a very small number of bad nurses.

"Thanks to the special emulation campaign for nursing, which was carried out for that very purpose--to evaluate the work of the nurses, discover the good nursing collectives and encourage and honor them, solve a few of their material problems in the way of clothing and working conditions, and create adequate salary conditions for them--all of this has now ceased to be a problem, above all absenteeism among nursing personnel.

"And now that it has ceased to be a problem, nurses who had gone into outpatient work are even returning to hospital work. All of this is breaking the vicious circle of absenteeism, which was generating mistreatment and more absenteeism. We can say that at present our nurses are waging a battle against all that, and in the majority of our hospital units, absenteeism among nurses is no longer a problem. But the trend is toward another type of personnel. This has not yet resolved itself, but it must be resolved within the next few months and in the same spirit, since our nurses have returned to the forefront of the health workers now that there is a proper and appropriate assessment of their work.

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"That we still have bad nurses--that there are still those who do not give patients adequate care, who do not follow instructions, who do not have the right thing to say to the patient at a given moment, and so on--it is true that we still have that. But this is coming to be a chance element in our work, and it is being combated. Moreover, there is a clear rule that they cannot remain in health work."

Valdivia explained, "We found proof of this in the latest campaign to attract people to study nursing. Our goal was exceeded by far, and the quality was much better. Many of the problems we had been having were due precisely to selection criteria for personnel to study this profession--comrades who really did not have all the qualifications for pursuing it. As soon as the study of nursing was included among those technical careers requiring that certain selection parameters be satisfied, the results began to be seen in the form of a different work climate within the hospital units, since it has led to signs of progress as regards the treatment of patients and their relatives--and that is the main objective of the care that must be provided by the public health service."

More To Be Done

We asked Dr Valdivia whether the union's executive body feels that an emulation mechanism has been achieved that will force an even greater increase in optimization, and he answered:

"We feel that that has been one of the most important results of the union's work during these years: it has come up with a much clearer definition of the emulation mechanism, transformed it into an accurate means of measuring emulation work, and incorporated it as a tool for solving the problems we had and still have in some of our units--although they are becoming smaller and smaller."

He explained, "It is not that we have solved all the problems, because this is not a 1-day battle, and many times it happens that in a hospital which is operating satisfactorily, someone is guilty of an inappropriate remark, negligence, or a shortcoming, and it is necessary to be constantly vigilant about this and also to struggle to solve the problem."

"But we do feel that the situation is completely different than it was 3 years ago--that it does not depend solely on an incorporation of human or material resources but instead arises from a subjective element, new awareness, and a much clearer statement concerning the responsibility of a health worker, and also from greater motivation due to more adequate and more sustained stimulation that spotlights collective and individual efforts and results much more clearly and enables us, in addition, to have much more confidence in those places displaying awards such as those established in the worker movement."

The union leader added, "I believe that we still have a lot to do, because all things considered, as soon as one situation is resolved, we are immediately faced with another one. In other words, we already have a sizable number of worker collectives doing outstanding work. Along with that, we have a group of problems that are practically solved or on the way to solution, and we feel that we must now begin to tackle other problems that are more complex."

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Salary Reform

The secretary general of the National Health Workers Union had referred earlier to "more adequate stimulation," and in that connection, we asked how the salary reform has been carried out and which groups of workers are already benefiting from it.

Valdivia explained, "Well, I could talk to you about that, but I feel that comrade Yolanda is the best person to discuss that subject."

Nothing could be more logical, since comrade Yolanda Diaz Rodriguez, the union's secretary of work organization and salaries, was also present at the interview. So we passed the question to her. She said:

"In July we received approval for putting the salary reform into effect on a priority basis for doctors, dentists, and nurses. The priority status was given basically in order to recognize and stimulate nursing work. We have always maintained that nurses constitute one of the most self-sacrificing groups in our sector and that they are of major importance to the health service. But from the standpoint of salaries, there was an egalitarianism that was not benefiting the service, because a nurse was paid the same salary regardless of the job she was doing."

Comrade Yolanda explained, "There was no salary differentiation based on specialization or job complexity. As a result, there was the situation in which a nurse working in a polyclinic or consulting room received the same salary as a nurse working in a ward and directly caring for a patient, with all the complexity involved in such a job, or in an operating room.

"The result of that situation was that since nursing is an activity engaged in mainly by women who generally are faced with a number of personal problems, added to which there was no salary incentive, there was an exodus of nurses from complex jobs to positions where working conditions were more comfortable and offered greater possibilities. That affected the service enormously.

"The salary reform resolved that situation, with different salaries being established for the various jobs. The reform recognizes what we call 'direct patient care' and 'outpatient care.' This has been greeted with approval by the nurses. They are very happy that the reform has gone into effect, and now we are getting what we were looking for: the exodus of nurses from outpatient work to the hospital wards. In addition, comrades who had left their jobs because of social problems are now turning up at the nursing offices of the Ministry of Public Health's sectoral directorates to go back to work.

"In other words, we feel that putting the reform into effect for this category of work has been very positive and that it has been welcomed gladly by the workers.

"But there is a differentiation among the nurses who work within a hospital itself. For example, between those who work in the wards and those who work in an operating room." We asked, "Is there also a salary difference in those cases?"

Yolanda said, "Yes, there is differentiation on several levels. The salary is also set for comrades who have taken postbasic courses in nursing and for those who have completed the course for a licentiate in nursing. Another need was for compensation

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based on responsibility--something else that was lacking in our sector. In other words, the nurses have now begun receiving the additional pay due them when they work as head nurse in a ward or an area or as head nurse at the hospital level. This was also included because it was not easy to find a comrade willing to take on the responsibility of head nurse.

"We began putting the salary reform into effect in July--as I already told you--and very serious work by the ministry and the union was required so that it could be accomplished as rapidly as possible and so that all the personnel benefiting from it would begin to receive proper pay according to the scale. We have now put the reform into effect for around 36,000 workers, including doctors, dentists, and nursing personnel. All of them are now receiving their new salary. There was no difficulty at all in putting this into effect; it has been completed throughout the island, and we do not believe that any serious problems will arise. Of course, it is possible that some very specific situations exist, but they are already being resolved."

We asked comrade Yolanda, "What about the rest of the workers in this sector? When is the salary reform supposed to go into effect for them?"

"Well, for the rest of the workers in the sector, who have also expressed concern because the reform has gone into effect only for some and not for everyone, work is underway to present job descriptions for the rest of the technicians. That work is quite far along. Of course, the reform had its priorities, and this has to be explained to the workers from a political point of view. It involves the interest felt by the party and government in recognizing the work of nursing personnel and that of the doctors and dentists, of which our commander in chief has spoken on repeated occasions. That is why those activities were assigned priority within the sector."

The union leader added, "We repeat that the work is quite far along, and we do not believe we will have any difficulty in starting to apply the reform to the rest of the workers beginning in January 1981. Of course, the most complex area in our sector is that of the technicians, because we have already approved service job descriptions, those for the manual workers, and we are now drawing them up for the technicians. In our case, there must be about 200 technical jobs, since the complexity involved is very different from that in other sectors."

We asked the National Health Workers Union's secretary of work organization and salaries: "And are all the steps being taken to put the reform into effect for the rest of the workers in 1981?"

She explained, "Well, we plan to put the reform into effect for the rest of the workers then, and we have discussed this in all our recent union meetings, but whether the workers will start receiving the benefit then will depend largely on administrative and union management in each health care unit. We say this because we will receive authorization to put it into effect beginning in January, but actual implementation will depend on whether all the documents, forms, and economic estimates that must be completed and submitted in each province have been taken care of. The sooner that process is completed, the sooner the workers will be paid. If a particular unit, municipality, or province is slow and, instead of completing its work before January, does not have it ready until February or April, that will be to the detriment of the workers themselves, including the administrative staff, since they will begin drawing their pay in the month in which those jobs are completed."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT SERVICES IN HAVANA NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Feb 81 pp 32-33

[Interview with Havana Sectoral Director of Trade Jose Verdese by Alberto Pozo, time and place not given]

[Text] The group met right in Prado [Square]. To create a more spontaneous, more confidence-inspiring atmosphere that puts people in a better frame of mind for a more casual treatment of the subject, as among a group of friends united by a common interest. The photograph must be like this. The Prado without the lion in front is not the Prado. This is in recognition of Jose Verdese, sectoral director of trade for the City of Havana. . . A born salesman, he defends himself against the journalistic barrage like a lion!

"I used to come out to the front door of the business and put my arm around the customer, and he would leave with a new pair of pants on!" He recalls the days of "La Buena Nueva," "La Popular" and "La Victoria" in Marianao.

[Question] By the way, why do so many workers complain about the linkage program?

[Answer] I'll answer with a specific example. Some workers at the "Bazar Ingles" complained that they could not get their 100 pesos that way. You know that now 60 pesos are guaranteed and the rest (or more) must be obtained from sales. We investigated, and it turned out that those who did not reach that amount had been absent some days. . . and that lowers their chances. Those who worked every day earned 180 to 200 pesos a month. Twice that amount. But the linkage program still has room for improvement. It is a process. We are also using bonuses on products that do not sell well.

(We also investigated, and found this to be a sensitive and delicate issue. That should not be forgotten.)

[Question] The supply of industrial products in the stores has increased impressively. It is a pleasure to go shopping. How did that happen?

[Answer] First the parallel market came into the picture, with a surcharge on products on the free market. Afterwards ready-made clothing was added, until 1977. Then ready-made clothing was deregulated. Finally, there was a 50 percent price reduction in that sector.

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[Question] We are impressed with how fast the free market area is growing. . .

[Answer] We have devoted the "boulevard" of San Rafael to free market sales. But there are exceptions in the "Fin de Siglo" and "J. Valles" department stores, and in three shoe stores. In addition, in each municipality there are free market stores, and in the other areas there are zones set aside for free market sales.

[Question] Will the ration book be a thing of the past soon?

[Answer] The next ration book will be reduced to a minimum. Shoes, for example. At this time there are 909 products that are not grouped, and of them 817 are on the free market. Only 19 articles remain in groups.

[Question] What is the physical state of the stores?

[Answer] Fifty-one percent are from average to poor. The maintenance teams of the six regions went to the 15 municipalities. They have to maintain everything, so if there is a school or kindergarten that needs repairs. . . We have proposed to the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN) that a maintenance brigade be created in every enterprise, and that the Decoration Enterprise be strengthened; the latter will also provide maintenance service in the case of major problems. If this proposal is approved, we will begin to see results by the second half of the year. Let us use the example of the "La Epoca" store, which we are converting to a self-serve system with new socialist methods. We have already implemented this system at the Galiano and San Rafael shoe stores, and at "La Quincallera de Marianao."

[Question] What about the supermarkets?

[Answer] There were six supermarkets devoted to other uses. We rescued the one on 19th between A and B in El Vedado; we are working on the one in Villoldo, in Vibora Park; this year we will also save the ones in Ayestaran and San Pedro.

[Question] How about the farmers' markets?

[Answer] We are renovating the old marketplaces. Work is already in progress in Marianao; we are remodeling the old Mercado Unico, which will have a cafeteria and pizzeria (with Chinese soup); we are processing the acceptance of the Regla Market; the one on Avenida Salvador Allende will be coming along. . . In total, in a very short time we will open up 20 farmers' markets in the 15 municipalities. The majority of them will be ready by the end of January. The first is already operating in Lagueruela.

[Question] Are the commercial techniques seminars useful to you?

[Answer] After the First National Seminar, enthusiasm has grown. The two yearly events will put pressure on people to improve the quality of service. We have already seen improvements in customer relations, although they are not yet what they should be.

[Question] And for 1981/85?

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[Answer] We will build six shopping centers in the outskirts of the city. For example, Bahia and Alamar. We will renovate 20 units that were closed for rehabilitation to better serve the public. We will install a self-service system in 60 units. The participation and bonus programs will be implemented to the utmost.

[Question] What would you like to emphasize?

[Answer] We have 58 stores with uninterrupted hours, from 0900 to 1930 hours, with the exception of the municipalities of Havana Vieja and Centro Havana. On Mondays and Thursdays, those stores are open until 2100 hours, because those are the days for working women. In Centro Havana and Havana Vieja a group of stores is open from 1740 to 2300 hours. All this is an experiment to determine in practice what guidelines we should follow. Did you notice that we are opening kiosks all over the place to bring the merchandise closer to the public?

(Part of the economic section team participated in the interview: Gloria Marsan, Andres Rodriguez, Gregorio Hernandez, and Alistoy, the designer.)

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

DEVELOPMENTS IN LAS TUNAS MUNICIPALITIES DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Feb 81 pp 28-31

[Article by Andres Rodriguez]

[Text] It All Started Like This

In this magazine's 27 June 1980 edition, in the "Bohemia economica" section, an article appeared which was an attempt at responding to the problem of the sugar harvest in Las Tunas. That province is behind all the others in this important activity which constitutes the mainstay of the Cuban economy.

Along with a specific focus on the situation of the six sugar enterprises of Las Tunas, as well as six more sugarcane operations, the article also presented an overview of the six municipalities where these enterprises are located, with particular reference to social conditions.

This dual approach served the purpose of pointing out the incontrovertible influence that social problems have on the above-mentioned economic context. In short, it stressed the necessary interrelation between the two aspects.

Many Las Tunas residents, beginning with local leaders and officials, welcomed this article with the enthusiasm required by the document approved at the ninth plenary session of the Central Committee, concerning the strengthening of the critical attitude of the mass media.

Now we have returned for the necessary and useful follow up to that article. Just as before, we made another tour of the six sugar enterprises, the six sugar cane operations and the six municipalities where they are located. And just as before, we were welcomed warmly by all.

But unlike the other time, our sights were aimed at the situation of the municipalities. Of course the essence is still the same, with no adjustment in that sense. We proceeded with the intention of emphasizing, through the analysis of each municipality, the apparent repercussions of the social aspects on the productive aspects. It is no coincidence, as was shown in the earlier article, that there is a general trend for the most problem-ridden municipalities from the socio-economic point of view, to be the same ones where the most backward enterprises are located, in terms of their harvest results.

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We are now announcing our next follow-up visit, which will take place (assuming all the parties involved agree) during the first quarter of this year, in the middle of the harvest. Thus, we will continue to inform you.

Tunas Water Comes from Puerto Padre

We do not have the objectivity necessary to make a comparative analysis and establish the present order of the municipalities of Las Tunas in terms of their current socio-economic situation. However, we feel it is safe to say that the municipality of Puerto Padre, in the northern part of the province, is number one.

Let us make it very clear at the outset that Puerto Padre does not represent a tremendous exception in this province. Naturally, it has its problems. Even the president of the Peoples Government, Martin Silva, described those problems in detail.

Problem number one: housing. As a result of this situation, the number of doctors has dropped, and specialists such as psychiatrists, otorinolaringologists and dermatologists have left the area. Undertakers are in short supply, which makes for social problems. Similarly, there is still not an adequate distribution of material goods in the rural areas where a large number of agricultural workers live.

Raising his sights a bit, Martin Silva also pointed out other deficiencies, including the insufficient exploitation of the recreational possibilities. According to him, there is inadequate use of the Puerto Padre breakwater, although nearby we observed the construction, with local manpower, of a spacious floating cabaret. Not enough use is made of the beaches, either.

We took a boat to the beaches of Sucucho and La Llanita. Of course, our graphic reporter Enrique Llanos was very careful to avoid repeating his spectacular fall into the water on his first visit. Miraculously, he surfaced without having lost his glasses. Next, we went by land to another beach with very white sand and crystalline waters. The beaches here, because of their natural conditions, rival the world famous Varadero beach. We will not comment on the similarity, but there is no doubt that that beach, completely virgin at present, has the potential to be a tourist attraction.

Now, as we said before, Puerto Padre is first among the Las Tunas municipalities. It is the best, for example, in two important aspects: education and public health. In sum, it is reputed to have the most stable situation in the province in terms of socio-economic efforts.

However, in our opinion, the greatest achievement of this municipality lies in its local pride.

It appears that the locals feel a great attachment to their native land, and are not hesitant to express it. Thus, it is not unusual to hear statements such as the following:

"Here we have the best stadium in the province."

"We had the first Cultural House in Las Tunas."

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"The water people drink in Las Tunas comes from Puerto Padre."

Local residents could be accused of vanity or presumptuousness for making these assertions, but it is no less true that they reveal a local pride which represents a powerful moving force for the municipality's work. Therein lies the advantage of Puerto Padre.

If channeled properly so as to avoid regional chauvinistic overtones, this local pride should be stimulated, because it truly makes an objective contribution to the establishment of the necessary atmosphere for progress in this municipality, and therefore in the province where it is located.

Friend of Plato, But More of Truth

For a long time (as we reported in "Bohemia economica" concerning the problems of the Las Tunas sugar harvest, on 27 June 1980) the municipality of Amancio Rodriguez, at the southern end of the province, has had an unenviable reputation for backward socio-economic conditions. At one time, that reputation was deserved. But why continue to burden that municipality with such a label today?

Certainly evenings in Amancio are still dull, with poor public lighting and insufficient recreational attractions. However, it is also true that the municipality has begun a facelift, and today it is no longer the most backward part of the province. Other Las Tunas municipalities such as Manati, Jesus Menendez and Jobabo are behind it now. On our next visit to the province (first quarter of 1981) we will probably be able to present concrete proof of that assertion.

One evening, merely by dialing 07, we called our family in the capital from Amancio. We did so from the modern automated telephone center which was recently installed. The reader can see an outside view of the center on these pages. Of course, that same call can be made from any of the 289 telephones now installed in the municipality.

The next day we went with the second secretary of the municipal committee of the Party on a tour through the urban area. We were able to see the modern 82-bed hospital that is being built, which will provide a whole gamut of services. We also saw other social facilities (the Cultural House or Married Couples' House, for example), which are helping to dispel, in a gradual process that will never leap forward suddenly, the Macondian legend of this municipality of rich revolutionary traditions.

A simple fact is enough to back up what we have just stated: the doctor-patient ratio between 1970 and 1980.

1970: One doctor for every 6,600 inhabitants;
One nurse for every 1,666 inhabitants.

1980: One doctor for every 3,300 inhabitants;
One nurse for every 869 inhabitants.

One final remark about this point: In the municipality of Jesus Menendez, for example, the ratio is one doctor for every 5,000 inhabitants.

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An Intermediate Municipality?

As we noted at the beginning of this article, we are unable to classify the municipality of Colombia, which is also in the southern part of the province. At present it is far from being able to emulate Puerto Padre to the north; nor do we think it is at the level of rejuvenation of its southern neighbor Amancio Rodriguez. However, we do feel that it ranks above the other three Las Tunas municipalities that we visited. Consequently, it may be considered an intermediate municipality.

Colombia lies practically at the door of the beautiful province of Camaguey. It borders on Guaimaro, a municipality with paved streets, a modern hospital, an impressive hotel and other features. Guaimaro directly benefited from the transformation of Camaguey, and the proximity of the two municipalities must have been a tremendous impetus.

At this time transportation between Camaguey and Colombia is better and more reliable than that between Las Tunas and Colombia.

Judging by the clamor of the electors at the Peoples Government evaluation assembly, it appears that the municipality has four basic problems:

- Electrical energy.
- Transportation: The rural areas have none.
- Restaurant services: Problems with hygiene, quality of service and products.
- Highways: This situation is truly critical.

The urban area has many dirt roads. The president of the Peoples Government confessed that of 6,000 linear meters of streets, only 1,600 are paved.

However, a housing construction program has begun, extending to other municipalities in the province, and it is very encouraging. In 1979 the state built only 10 houses in Colombia; in 1980 140 were built, along with one building containing 10 dwellings. In addition, three buildings, each containing 20 apartments, are under construction.

Furthermore, more facilities are being built to meet the population's needs, including a bakery to replace the existing stalls, and a dry cleaning establishment that needs only a boiler and an assembly line.

Another positive development, also affecting the rest of the municipalities, is that the allotment of resources for the repair of housing has been improved visibly.

One last note: The most stable and least troublesome sugar enterprise of the province is located in Colombia. It has exceeded its production quotas for seven consecutive harvests. Although it does not consume much oil or firewood, its industrial efficiency has declined in recent years.

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Jobabo: Most Critical Point

Enrique Espinosa, president of the Peoples Government in the municipality of Jobabo, came right to the most critical point in his locality: housing. He gave us some figures on this matter.

In the urban perimeter of Jobabo, there are 2,934 dwellings, of which approximately 750, or 25 percent of the total, are in a deplorable state, according to Espinosa. Of course, as we noted earlier, construction is going on here (140 houses are being built now), but the prospects are not that simple.

In addition, the difference pointed out with respect to Amancio Rodriguez is also present in Jobabo: There is evidence of a decline in services to the population.

Fortunately, says Espinosa, and as we saw with our own eyes, a recuperation phase has begun in this respect. That is, step by step the service centers that had disappeared for various reasons are being replaced. All previously existing hotels have passed on, and there is a desire to build a new one.

Llanes, the second secretary of the Party in the municipality, accompanied us on a visit to the 30 December Recreational Center, which was opened a while ago near the urban area. It is an attractive and picturesque place which cries out to be used by its beneficiaries. It is worth noting that Llanes put all his cards on the table during the visit. That was our impression, and we are saying it because that is the way we felt.

One final note on sports: None of the Basic Secondary Farm Schools (ESBEC) of the municipality has a sports area. Another point, concerning culture: There are 78 groups of amateur musicians (possibly among the best in the province) which are experiencing problems obtaining resources and instructors.

Remote Manati

In the above-mentioned "Bohemia economica" section of 27 June 1980, quite a bit of attention was given to the socio-economic situation of the municipality of Manati, on the western border with Camaguey. At that time we observed an apparent coincidence: The municipality that was perhaps the most backward in the province was also the home of the Argelia Libre sugar enterprise, the most troublesome in the province.

In that article we referred to the disappearance of whole "bateyes" [company towns] as their inhabitants emigrated mainly to nearby Camaguey. In the midst of that situation, we also remarked on the inexplicable fact that there was a sugar cane community whose construction had been halted for years.

Let us forget that last comment. Construction was resumed on that community, located in the Suarez Gayol District of the Argelia Libre sugar cane operation. The reader can see graphic proof in this article.

At that time we also pointed out the critical situation of the Las Tunas-Manati passenger rail service, the principal means of transportation for the municipality.

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Here we cannot yet reverse that comment, although it should be noted that the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, responsible for operating that railroad at present, somehow managed to lend a hand--or at least a few fingers--to prevent the total paralyzation of the rail service. In short, there is still no definite solution to the problem of the Las Tunas-Manati passenger rail service.

Has something been done to raise hopes about progress in Manati? We asked Placido, the vice-president of the local Peoples Government.

Without letting himself be carried away by the muse of ethereal optimism, Placido named a series of accomplishments.

According to him, the acquisition of five new buses has alleviated the situation in the urban perimeter as well as the Manati-Las Tunas inter-municipal service. Additionally, the capacity of the hospital has been increased by adding new beds and some services such as X-rays. Other social projects are taking place as well, such as the kindergarten, the combination of commercial services and a recreational center called Salon Rojo, designed specifically for youths. Although this may seem trivial, we also saw a permanent brigade that is assigned to build sidewalks.

Of course--and this is no platitude--much remains to be done in Manati, which is frankly very isolated from the other sugar municipalities. The seed of hope for transformation must still be planted.

Menendez Dependency

Jesus Menendez, a great proletarian name, is a municipality that is not remote from the others, as Manati is, but it depends in many ways on its neighbor Puerto Padre.

We had an open and constructive meeting with the Peoples Government representatives and those of the local mass organizations regarding socio-economic problems. To avoid overwhelming the reader with statistics, we will simply note that after that meeting we reached the conclusion that Menendez is virtually a virgin municipality in one area of activities; hence its dependence on Puerto Padre.

However, we would like to note some of the points brought out at that meeting.

The instability of the medical community is obvious. In this respect, there are many problems with the specialists. As a result, the population must go to Puerto Padre.

With the exception of the movies, there is practically no place for recreation or culture.

There is not one refrigerator repairman.

The demographic decline is evident, particularly in the rural areas where many agricultural workers reside.

We mentioned the Macondian reputation of Amancio and the isolation of Manati. But we must be careful in our evaluation of the situation in Menendez.

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Epilogue

This is as far as we got in our second tour of the sugar municipalities of Las Tunas. Excuse its many flaws, as the Spanish one-act farces say at the end. We can only repeat what we said in the introduction to this article: We will continue to make systematic visits; expect the third installment in the first quarter of this year.

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COUNTRY SECTION

MARTINIQUE

MEMBERS OF PARTY POLITICAL BUREAU INTERVIEWED IN CUBA

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 30 Jan 81 pp 66-67

[Interview with Alain Tiquant and Paul Gabourg of the Martinique Progressive Party Political Bureau by Ilse Bulit of BOHEMIA at the Hotel Triton in Havana; date not given]

[Text] If we were to meet them on a Havana street corner we could think that these two young men are university students on the way to the cinema or two workers, who after having showered at their work center are on the way to a baseball game. Their Caribbean features meld perfectly with our environment, however, when one talks to them, it is not only the French language which makes them different but also the concerns they harbor with respect to the future of their country.

Alain Tiquant and Paul Gabourg are from Martinique. They came to Cuba to participate as guests in the Second Party Congress. The former is the chief of the Martinique Progressive Party delegation and is a member of its political bureau and its secretary for foreign relations. The latter is also a member of the political bureau and is in charge of the rank and file cells of the party.

We spoke facing the scene of the immense sea offered by the Hotel Triton. However, before taking up the reality of Martinique through the voice of its sons, let us recall that the island is part of the Lesser Antilles and is 1,102 kilometers square in size. It has a tropical climate moderated by the trade winds. Columbus discovered it on his fourth voyage; it was inhabited by fierce Caribs. Colonized by the French, it was also held by the English, although after the Treaty of Paris (1814), it reverted to the former. On 19 March 1946, the French Government granted it the status of overseas department with representation in the French National Assembly and Senate. However....

[Question] What is the true status of relations between Martinique and the metropolis?

[Alain] From the legal point of view, Martinique, according to the 1946 law, ceased to be a colony and became a French department, however, economic, social and political relations did not change basically. They continue being relations between a colony and a metropolis. At an economic level, for example, exploitation of agricultural resources by means of large estates is in the hands of

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the descendents of those French settlers. They maintain the single-crop system: sugarcane, bananas or pineapples, all destined for export to France. There has never been an economic development policy in our country that will allow a real improvement in the standard of living. In the political aspect, we have the same bodies that exist in France: deputies, mayors, general counselors, and economic and social advisers. However, these individuals do not have any real authority. The prefect makes the decisions. He is a sort of governor appointed in France. The rest adopt and obey the order he issues. On the social plane, we must acknowledge new advances with respect to the status of health, education, maintenance and cleanliness of the streets and sanitation equipment. However, up to now we do not have the same number of social advantages as the French population.

[Question] Are not those changes for the improvement of living conditions brought about by the large landowner for his own benefit? He lives there.

Paul: Yes, and those changes, of course, are not shared by all the population. I would like to add in the economic aspect that the bourgeoisie owns the cane-fields and business...they have the plantations and services also, the greater part of the services.

[Alain] There is an interesting point. The present tendency of the large landowners is to abandon agricultural exploitation and invest in the import-export business. Why? There is no local production there and everything we consume comes from France. We could say that there is a sort of monopoly of trade which is exactly the same as that which existed when we were a colony and there existed what we called the "colonial pact." It said that trade between the metropolis and us was exclusively the prerogative of France. Today products and people must travel by means provided by French companies and corporations. Sometimes, perhaps, some merchandise may travel on some ship flying another flag but it is always done with prior approval by them. The lettuce, carrots and citrus, we consume, for example, come from France and we could produce them.

Paul: There is a sadly laughable paradox: "The island imports sugar and we produce sugarcane.

Alain: Another very important aspect is what we call "genocide by substitution." Since there is no incentive for a real local economy, unemployment affects more than 50 percent of the population. The metropolis encourages migration to Europe and this causes our young population to decline. Every year 5,000 Martinicans leave for Europe. At the same time, the French and other Europeans come to live on the island. There is an emigration in both directions which results in the substitution of the population. There are more and more Europeans and fewer Martinicans. Those of us who struggle for national liberation over there are fighting against time. The more years that go by, the fewer the young people and workers who will remain in our island and it is in them that the seeds of the possibility of liberation resides.

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[Question] What are the political factions which may now be seen?

[Alain] We can see the existence of three factions. Obviously, as everywhere else, there are those who betray the interests of the people; the lackeys of the economic policy followed by France. They are the ones who belong to parties who represent support for the French right. There is a second, independence-oriented faction consisting of small organizations: Two groups of Trotskyite tendencies and one nationalist. They demand immediate independence. The third faction, the most important of the left, enfold the Martinique Communist Party, of Marxist-Leninist ideology, and the Martinique Progressive Party. Both advocate national liberation and the construction of socialism. At the same time, they think they must go through a transition period which we call autonomy. This period would allow time to prepare the people for access to independence and also for the struggle for the construction of socialism, because French colonialism has carried out a massive dissemination of its capitalist and assimilation ideology. They are trying to make the people of Martinique believe that they are neither Martinicans nor Caribbeans, but Europeans. (a sad smile appears on the lips of the young interviewees).

[Question] Do these two parties work in unison?

[Unattributed answer] At one time there was a front in which they were united; at this time they are not. It is well to explain that although we exist legally as a party, it must be recognized that the left is suppressed, it cannot speak. We do not have access to radio, television or the press. Although the law says that it does, the truth is another. I take advantage of this interview to make an appeal for the solidarity of the Cuban people as well as the opinion of all the Caribbean, and the opinion of the entire world to curb the criminal policy of the French Government. We denounce North American imperialism, which can be felt more noticeably, but the French is more subtle and is present a short distance from Cuba. While the French Government attempts to make people believe that France is a land of freedom, we say to international opinion, particularly to the Caribbean, that the French Government oppresses the people, maintains its domination, particularly over Martinique, Guyana [as published] and Tahiti in the Pacific. At this moment there are seven Tahitian autonomists prisoners in France. There are five Guyanan [as published, presumably French Guianan] independentists imprisoned over there for having attacked the "security of the state." In our own Martinique, during this past period, there have been trials of anticolonialists. We know that a repression is being prepared in Guadeloupe against the nationalist movement of that island, because armed struggle has begun to surface there.

(While the interview is going on, a French-language version of the Second Party Congress Central Report is resting on a table. It is noted that it has already been leafed through. We ask the last question.

[Question] What is your opinion of this report?

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Alain: The central report presented by Fidel Castro has given us a complete idea of the Cuban situation. Thanks to it we know precisely in which fields the most important changes have taken place, the areas which must be developed and where a greater effort must be made. When we were hearing it from the lips of Fidel, we understood how difficult the construction of socialism is at the very throat of imperialism. We shall take this report to Martinique and we shall study it at the party level. I am convinced that we Martinicans have much to learn from what was said by Comrade Fidel Castro in the central report. The Martinique Progressive Party wishes to maintain its fraternal bonds with the Cuban people and the Communist Party of Cuba. We are determined to be at the side of Cuba every time that North American imperialism tries to halt the Cuban Revolution.



Martinicans Paul Gabourt and Alain Tiquant

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