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8 October 1981

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 25/81)

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# LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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## CONTENTS

### COUNTRY SECTION

#### BRAZIL

Report on Chaves as President (Stan Lehman; LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST, 22 Sep 81).....	1
Report on Background of Chaves (Tom Murphy; LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST, 23 Sep 81).....	4

#### CUBA

Malmierca Addresses UN General Assembly Session (PRELA, 24, 25 Sep 81).....	7
U.S. Bacteriological Aggression, by Jose Luis Ponce On Disarmament, Detente Intervention in El Salvador On Nonaligned Movement U.S. Hegemony, by Jose Luis Ponce Support for Various Causes	
Economic, Industrial Development of Camaguey Reported (BOHEMIA, 7 Aug 81).....	15
Sancti Spiritus People's Government Working To End Province's Problems (Hipolito Rodriguez Interview; BOHEMIA, 28 Aug 81).....	18
Nuclear Technology Developments Discussed (BOHEMIA, 31 Jul 81).....	23
Briefs Montane-Guyanese Vice President Meet	30

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

REPORT ON CHAVES AS PRESIDENT

PY222221 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 22 Sep 81 p 1

["Special to the DAILY POST" by Stan Lehman]

[Text] Sao Paulo--For the first time since 1964, when the armed forces overthrew the civilian government of Joao Goulart, Brazil will have a civilian president for other than ceremonial duties.

Vice-President Aureliano Chaves, 52, will be sworn in as the nation's chief-of-state on Wednesday temporarily replacing President Joao Figueiredo who suffered a heart attack last week in Rio de Janeiro.

The decision to have Chaves take over the reins of power was made by Figueiredo himself and his top civilian and military advisers after doctors reported that the president will not be able to resume his presidential duties for at least eight weeks.

The heart attack almost immediately sparked speculation as to the future of Figueiredo's abertura [political opening] program.

"Without the president we are lost," and "this could cause serious institutional problems," were some of the statements made by leading figures of the pro-government PDS [Social Democratic Party] party expressing a general fear that abertura was on its deathbed and would be replaced by a return to the kind of repressive regimes that prevailed in the recent past.

Chaves' appointment as the country's interim president also helped resuscitate disturbing phantoms of the past as comparisons were made with what happened back in 1969 when President Costa e Silva was forced out of office as a result of what was said to have been a brain hemorrhage.

The armed forces at that time, pulling off a virtual coup d'etat, did not allow Vice-President Pedro Aleixo to step in for the dying Costa e Silva. Instead a military junta took power and paved the way, through a series of extra-constitutional measures, for what is considered to have been the harshest and most repressive post-1964 regime--that of Emilio Garrastazu Medici.

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Anticipating the national concern that an ugly part of Brazilian history may repeat itself, civilian and military authorities immediately made statements to the effect that the Pedro Aleixo case would not be repeated and that the country was calm and that neither Figueiredo's political, economic or social policies would suffer any changes.

Aureliano Chaves himself firmly rejected the possibility of a repeat performance saying that Brazil was in no way facing an imminent coup "because abnormal solutions are no longer accepted by the nation nor by the armed forces which are united around President Figueiredo's political project."

Asked what could be expected during his temporary term in office, Chaves, the former governor of Minas Gerais and the president of the National Energy Commission said "I have always been strongly identified with Figueiredo and his policies, not only in thought but in deed."

According to most political observers, nothing will change on the national scenario during Chaves' brief tenure in office. To begin with Chaves is substituting, not succeeding Figueiredo, a fact that makes it clear that his main task will be to maintain things as they are rather than giving the presidency a new personality.

As a substitute and not a successor Chaves will also be working with the same Figueiredo-chosen team. In other words the country's economic policies will continue to be elaborated by Delfim Netto, its foreign policy will still be the responsibility of Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and so on.

Figueiredo's substitution by Chaves set off a minor political storm in congress.

Several congressmen, especially from the opposition, were annoyed that the legislature had no say as to who would replace the stricken president.

But the real culprit for this controversy is the constitution and its vagueness in relation to a presidential substitution.

The constitution says that the president will be substituted by the vice-president in the event of an impediment.

It does not say exactly what constitutes a presidential impediment nor does it give any further details as to the steps that must be followed when a president must be substituted.

For Raimundo Faoro, former president of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB) the vagueness of the constitution in this respect is sufficient reason to believe that only congress can formally convoke and swear in the vice-president as president.

Government authorities, in order to solve the problem created by the vagueness of the constitution decided that Figueiredo should personally hand over the reins of power to Chaves in the same fashion he has done before his trips abroad.

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Another question that came up surrounding Chaves' indication as interim president was why he will be sworn in Wednesday. Why was he not sworn in immediately?

So far, two explanations have been offered. One of these was offered by Chaves who said he has prior commitments which he did not want to cancel. The other explanation is that the nation was taken completely by surprise by the recent turn of events. So surprised that its institutions needed time to prepare themselves to receive a substitute president.

Just how much influence Chaves will have during the eight weeks he will be president is a question that will remain unanswered for the time being.

The fact is that Chaves has never been part of the government's inner decision-making circle that meets every day at 9:00 a.m.

And it is also known that there are important members of the armed forces who have always been and continue to be opposed to the idea of a civilian president.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

REPORT ON BACKGROUND OF CHAVES

PY240031 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 23 Sep 81 pp 1, 3

["Special to the DAILY POST" by Tom Murphy]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--"O Mineiro Trabalha Em Silencio."

"The Mineiro (a citizen of the state of Minas Gerais) works in silence."

This ancient dictum about the residents of Brazil's second largest state rings true, but with suitable discretion, in the case of Brazilian Vice President Aureliano Chaves.

Chaves, a product of the rural Minas Gerais town of Tres Pontas and a former governor of his native state, assumed the presidency of Brazil today for a period of two months while President Joao Figueiredo recovers from the mild heart attack he suffered last week in Rio.

As a bona fide Mineiro politician Chaves' work as vice president has been discreet yet substantive and even, at times, controversial. In fact, he has probably been the most effective and adroit vice president since the 1950's.

As head of the National Energy Council Chaves has accumulated more power in a substantive policy area than any other member of the Figueiredo administration except for Planning Minister Delfim Netto, Interior Minister Mario Andreazza and the three military ministers. He overshadows Energy Minister Cesar Cals and commands the loyalty of commerce minister, and fellow Mineiro, Joao Camilo Penna.

And Chaves is also heard, although not always needed, on matters of political policy.

It is in this last area that the vice president has demonstrated a streak of typical Mineiro stubbornness, but a stubbornness expressed with typical Mineiro patience. Earlier this year Chaves made it clear he did not agree with the wishes of government party leaders to extend the so-called sub-legenda [intraparty sub-groups] voting system to next year's gubernatorial elections. Such sentiments followed by a matter of weeks a vice presidential trip to Rio Grande do Sul during which Chaves made subtle but unmistakable criticisms of Planning Minister Delfim Netto's credit and agricultural policies.

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His patient work at maintaining personal friendships within the government alliance, his politeness in expressing his contrary views and his personal prestige seemed to protect him from creating enemies when he expressed these sentiments. However, on both occasions, Chaves won enthusiastic friends from among critics of both the government's economic and political policies.

Indeed, maintaining the dialogue with Brazil's growing opposition parties was becoming one of Chaves' principal tasks. And it's a task he undertakes with authority. Among personal friends are opposition leaders including Sao Paulo deputy Herbert Levy and Minas Gerais deputy Magalhaes Pinto. Levy, in fact, was so pleased to be consulted by Chaves on one recent occasion that he told the press afterwards, "Aureliano Chaves would be an excellent candidate for the presidency of Brazil."

An apparently warm personal relationship with President Figueiredo and a solid image among the military ministers buttresses Chaves' position within the current regime.

Consequently, when President Figueiredo announced on Saturday that Chaves would be taking over temporarily, virtually every important political group in the country expressed both support and relief. Aureliano Chaves, everyone seems to agree, is "safe" in just about every way.

Born in the small interior town of Tres Pontas in 1929 Aureliano Chaves declared his intention to be "an engineer and a politician" at an early age.

He achieved both graduating as an electrical engineer from the nearby Itajuba Institute and then, in 1958, running for the State Assembly. He lost that first election, but was chosen by the voters the next time around in 1960.

A member of the conservative UDN (National Democratic Union), Chaves was closely associated with then Minas Gerais Governor Jose Magalhaes Pinto. In 1964 Magalhaes made the 35-year-old state assemblyman his education secretary. And in 1966 Chaves was elected to the Federal Chamber of Deputies.

Because of his relationship with Magalhaes, the self-styled "civilian head of the 1964 revolution," Chaves was an early supporter of the post 1964 military government. However, he was not a consistent supporter. As one of the government party deputies to vote against the expulsion of radical opposition deputy Marcio Moreira Alves from the chamber in 1968, Chaves earned the enmity of some military leaders and the friendship of many in the opposition.

But Chaves built a solid reputation for competence in the Chamber of Deputies during the early 1970's. As one of the governmental party's floor leaders he helped keep the shaky ARENA (National Renovation Alliance) coalition together, despite the fact that Brazil's artificial two party system of the time put many political antagonists in the same camp. His work as chairman of the chamber's energy commission is something of a legend because of a 1972 speech in which Chaves stated that "energy development in the world is not keeping pace with demand." In his report to the chamber as energy commission chairman he predicted that oil producing countries would form an association to maintain high oil prices and suggested a number of alternative energy strategies for Brazil.



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Chaves' reputation as a political moderate drew him toward then Petrobras President Ernesto Geisel and, when Geisel became president of Brazil in 1974, he pushed Chaves for the indirectly elected post of governor of Minas.

Chaves became governor with broad support within the government party.

His administration was marked by peaceful relations among ARENA's major internal factions and by a state government plan to push for higher coal output. Chaves was also one of the first state governors to embrace the alcohol program, encouraging the planting of various alcohol-producing crops through fiscal incentives. It was also during his administration that Minas greatly increased its role in Brazilian coffee production.

His reputation for efficient administration and his much tested ability to bring peace to warring political factions made him a natural candidate for the vice presidency when out-going President Geisel decided a civilian for that job would help highlight his political liberalization program. Chaves, all Mineiros, most government party members and a majority of Brazilians were delighted by the choice.

Over 200 pounds in weight, Chaves is married and the father of three. He likes to exercise by lifting weights before breakfast and swimming in the vice presidential pool after lunch. He watches his cholesterol count. He drinks only an occasional glass of wine with dinner and has the slightly annoying habit of smoking only other people's cigarettes, but sparingly. An avid reader, Chaves' tastes tend toward technical books on subjects related to his long-abandoned career as an electrical engineer, as well as political science, history and biography.

There is at least a fair chance that Chaves will make his temporary job as president of Brazil permanent after 1984. More Mineiros (five) have become president than Brazilians from any other state. And six of Brazil's 24 presidents served previously as vice president (curiously, one, Delfim Moreira, served as vice president after retiring from the presidency). Chaves professes no such ambition, saying simply "my only wish is to serve as the loyal and discreet comrade of President Figueiredo." That he has succeeded at this modest ambition was made amply clear by President Figueiredo's act of Saturday.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

MALMIERCA ADDRESSES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

U.S. Bacteriological Aggression

PA251241 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2349 GMT 24 Sep 81

[Article by Jose Luis Ponce]

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (PL)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli said today that his country is convinced that U.S. Government agencies are using biological weapons against the Cuban people.

During a speech at the UN General Assembly, Malmierca criticized the United States for adding biological weapons to its long list of aggression against Cuba.

He referred to the recent epidemic of hemorrhagic dengue, which appeared simultaneously in several parts of the country while there were no reports of cases in other countries in the region. The epidemic killed 156 people.

The minister described the deaths, including those of 99 children, as murder and stressed that in less than 3 years Cuba has endured five serious plagues and epidemics affecting cattle and plantations and currently the population.

He listed the plagues as swine fever, the blue mold of tobacco, sugarcane smut, hemorrhagic dengue and the most recent one, hemorrhagic conjunctivitis, while the fight against dengue is still on.

He indicated that studies made by Cuban technical and scientific personnel have led to the conclusion that the dengue virus No 2, which produces the hemorrhagic variety, was deliberately brought in.

He recalled that for many years the United States has been developing a varied and sophisticated arsenal of bacteriological weapons and has carried out many tests with a view to using them, a fact that has been reported in official U.S. publications.

He stressed that a systematic and exhaustive analysis of all data available at health offices and institutions has proved that when the epidemic of hemorrhagic dengue appeared on the list no epidemic outbreaks of the dengue virus No 2 had appeared in any of the countries in Africa or Southeast Asia with which Cuba maintains relations.

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Malmierca said that Cuban health authorities have verified that no Cuban or foreign citizen coming from these or other areas has suffered from the illness produced by this virus. He added that there are no other outbreaks in any Latin American or Caribbean areas.

"We know, in turn, that U.S. research centers engaged in the development of biological weapons have paid special attention to the dengue virus No 2," he noted.

Malmierca recalled that in speeches delivered on 26 July and 15 September, Cuban President Fidel Castro denounced "this new, indescribable aggression against our people by the U.S. Government."

He stressed that Cuba asked that the texts of these speeches be distributed among the delegations to the UN General Assembly. The speeches contain references and evidence of the admission in official documents of the U.S. Senate and other bodies that on several occasions, and as part of actions aimed at overthrowing the Cuban revolutionary government, preparations to use bacteriological weapons were suggested.

He stressed that these facts have not been denied by responsible U.S. Government authorities even though President Fidel Castro has challenged them to state before the world public whether or not they have authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to carry out these actions.

"We have endured all sorts of attacks by the North American imperialists for over 20 years and have accumulated a long and painful experience," Malmierca said.

He then quoted the Cuban president, who said that "we are not afraid of imperialist threats. It may be possible to know when a conflict against us will begin but what nobody can know is when or how it will end."

On Disarmament, Detente

PA250449 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0035 GMT 25 Sep 81

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (PL)--Cuba today promised to work for the success of the forthcoming General Assembly session devoted to disarmament, so that it can be converted into a battle for universal peace and for the resumption of detente.

Isidoro Malmierca, the Cuban minister of foreign relations, said before the General Assembly that Cuba is sure the United States will do everything possible to prevent the convocation of this extraordinary assembly, dedicated to disarmament and scheduled for next year.

He recalled that in 1978, when the General Assembly's first session on disarmament was held, the United States, at the same time, summoned the chiefs of state of the NATO member-nations, who proclaimed, under U.S. Government pressure, their intention to increase their arsenals.

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Since then, Malmierca noted, the United States has continued to take steps to achieve military superiority, although it becomes more evident day by day that its NATO associates are resisting this pressure for political or economic reasons.

The minister accused the United States of unleashing an arms race whose end it is impossible to predict, citing the increase of war expenditures to unheard of levels and the reduction of the budget for social expenditures, "applying the sad practice of less butter and more cannons," as examples.

He also mentioned the creation of rapid deployment intervention forces, the decision to install 572 medium-range rockets in Europe, the production of neutron bombs, the MX rocket systems, the increase in the number of nuclear carriers, Trident submarines and the recommissioning of large warships.

"We are sure that the United States will do everything possible to prevent the convocation of the forthcoming extraordinary assembly dedicated to disarmament and we can expect very little U.S. cooperation and efforts toward its success, if it is held," he said.

Malmierca recalled that his country's National Assembly of People's power expressed firm and determined support for the appeal issued by the USSR Supreme Soviet to all parliaments and peoples of the world in connection with the critical international situation, augmented by the dangerous heightening of the arms race.

He pointed out that the nonaligned countries that took the initiative of calling for the first series of sessions on disarmament will make every effort and will work for its success.

The minister also supported the proposal made by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko last Tuesday regarding the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe.

The Soviet proposal suggests a solemn declaration by the General Assembly that any state or statesman deciding to be the first to use nuclear arms will be committing the gravest crime against mankind.

Intervention in El Salvador

PA251619 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0045 GMT 25 Sep 81

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (PL)--Cuba today denounced the intensification of U.S. interventionist and genocidal actions in El Salvador, arming and counselling a terrorist government that has murdered over 20,000 Salvadorans.

At the General Assembly, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli rejected the propaganda spread by the United States accusing Cuba of causing instability in Central America.

"It is not Cuba but Yankee imperialism which imposed and protected the antipopular and atrocious governments whose only virtue was their protection of the economic exploitation of the peoples of the region," he said.

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He asserted that it is imperialism which, with its direct or indirect military intervention, through reactionary regimes, must assume responsibility for the lack of peace in Central America.

He recalled that the Government of Cuba had emphatically denied that some of the arms delivered by the USSR are being redistributed in Central America, and noted that it is a lie that Cuba is now supplying any other arms or ammunition to the Salvadorans or that Cuban advisers are or have been in El Salvador.

He explained that these irrefutable facts do not imply a commitment or a moral judgment on the right to send military aid to the forces which are fighting the junta in El Salvador and whose political representation has been recognized by France and Mexico and has just been unanimously proclaimed by the countries participating in the 68th IPU Conference.

He said: "Something which is not a lie and which the U.S. rulers cannot deny is that U.S. and Venezuelan military and police advisers are training the genocidal forces of the Christian Democratic junta of El Salvador."

Malmierca said that it cannot be denied either that the Salvadoran soldiers are learning the art of repressing people from Augusto Pinochet's fascists in Chile. He noted that the Salvadoran people are being murdered with Yankee helicopters, planes, weapons and bullets.

He praised the recognition that Mexico and France gave to the alliance between the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the Democratic Revolutionary Front [FDR] describing it as "a clamor of justice in line with the principles of international law."

He noted that the United States, demonstrating its true intentions and interventionist purposes, reacted violently in the face of the French-Mexican initiative and, in using its allies in the Christian Democratic government of Venezuela, "forced these fake democrats to join the worst tyrannies of the continent in issuing a declaration condemning this initiative."

"Pinochet, Stroessner, Herrera Campins, together, led by the nose by Reagan, are trying to obstruct the search for a negotiated and political solution to the civil war in El Salvador."

On Nonaligned Movement

PA251855 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0236 GMT 25 Sep 81

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (PL)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli today asserted at the UN General Assembly that those who aspire to divide and destroy the Nonaligned Movement, that his country currently heads, will fail.

"We once again congratulate the movement for its 20th anniversary and warn those who want to divide or destroy it that they will not be successful and will find in it a powerful instrument of solidarity of the countries of the so-called Third World," Malmierca said.

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He pointed out that with the celebration of its 20th anniversary on 1 September, the movement maintains its vitality, continuity and fidelity to the struggle for national liberation, peace and disarmament and against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism.

He added that the struggle against racism, Zionism, and apartheid and for a fair and equitable international economic order, have strengthened the bases of the movement's unity and will help it impress its seal on the majority of the most important decisions of the United Nations.

Within the framework of the activities of the nonaligned countries, Malmierca recalled with sorrow that up to now it has not been possible to end the painful conflict between Iran and Iraq.

He recalled that since the first days of the war and even before this war began Cuba and its president, Fidel Castro, tried to contribute to a peaceful, political, just and honorable solution.

He added that lately these efforts were made in conjunction with other ministers of the Nonaligned Movement and that "it is our firm purpose to continue trying to find the desire solution to this conflict."

U.S. Hegemony

PA251947 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0202 GMT 25 Sep 81

[Article by Jose Luis Ponce]

[Excerpt] United Nations, 24 Sep (PL)--Cuba today accused the U.S. Government of trying to impose its hegemony on the world and to demand a military supremacy which endangers the carefully established framework of peace and international justice.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said at the UN General Assembly that the U.S. Government has ignored the norms of peaceful coexistence and the sovereign will of the majority of the states to claim an unacceptable supremacy at every level of international life.

Malmierca cited a speech by President Fidel Castro delivered at the inauguration of the [IPU] Conference in Havana, in which he expressed his firm conviction that the group which constitutes the principal nucleus of Ronald Reagan's administration is fascist and warned of the danger that it had taken on the structure of an imperialist bourgeoisie democracy.

He said that Reagan's administration is trying to impose its hegemony on the world and demands for the United States, in an arrogant attitude, a special position which will permit it to decide all international affairs in favor of U.S. imperialist interests and its transnational firms.

The minister said that not even Washington's closest allies have escaped the mistreatment of the new administration and its policy, which affects them and

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endangers their territories and peoples, without worrying over either the reticence of the allied governments or the opinion of those peoples.

After underscoring that the self-proclaimed champion of democracy is irritated by the opinion of the majority, he said that the United States demands the right to label as terrorists the leaders of other countries and prestigious national liberation movements and yet enforces terrorism with its military forces throughout the world, thereby violating international law.

He recalled that the United States rejected the proposed convention worked out after 8 years of negotiations in the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, adding that the recent provocations against Libya and the overbearing U.S. aggressiveness demonstrates the unquestionable need for a convention.

Malmierca said that the results of the U.S. actions have most seriously affected Southern Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, among other regions, and wondered whether it is possible that South Africa dared attack Angola because it felt assured of U.S. support.

In this framework he recalled that the visit of Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker to South Africa and the meeting between Ronald Reagan and South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha, given wide publicity in the United States, and the special interest in making the South African racists feel that they are part of a strategic alliance with the United States.

Who can deny, he asked, that the veto cast by the United States on the condemnation and sanction of Angola's aggressors constitutes proof of the encouragement and support for the illegal and hated apartheid regime.

He said that the attack on Angola is an attack against all black Africa, especially the southern part of the continent, and demanded that South Africa withdraw from Angola and stop its hostile actions against the rest of the Front Line states.

He cited Israel as one of the basic links of Washington's strategic alliance and said that Prime Minister Menahem Begin is today imposing on the Palestinian people the Nazi methods imposed against the Jews in the past.

He affirmed that nevertheless, the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization will attain victory in their struggle and will establish their own and independent state.

He added that the strategic understanding reached between Reagan and Begin is being confirmed with the bombing of Lebanon, the attack against the research center of Iraq and the threats against Syria and Jordan.

Support for Various Causes

PA252004 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1040 GMT 25 Sep 81

[Text] United Nations, 25 Sep (PL)--Isidoro Malmierca, the Cuban foreign minister, renewed the solidarity of his country with the causes of Puerto Rico, East Timor, Panama and the people of the Western Sahara.

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In speaking at the UN General Assembly, Malmierca greeted the independence of Belize after its long struggle to prevent the annexationist aims of the oppressors of the Guatemalan people.

He noted that the clamor to put an end to the colonial situation in Puerto Rico is increasing in that island and that most political organizations are demanding that the UN General Assembly review the Puerto Rican case in the next period of sessions.

"Cuba supports the right of this fraternal country to its independence and is sure that, in fulfilling its obligations, this assembly will not deny the Puerto Rican people the right to have this tragic situation examined," he said.

The Cuban minister reiterated the support of his country to the legitimate aspiration of the Argentine people to see the Falkland Islands incorporated into their national sovereignty as well as the just claim of the Bolivian people for an outlet to the sea.

After supporting the right of the East Timor people for their free determination, he said that the people of Western Sahara have earned with their heroism the respect and admiration of the entire world and supported their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

Malmierca said that he trusts in the prompt solutions to the old problems of Mayotte Island, which was not included in the sovereignty of the Comoro Islands and the Malagasy Islands which Madagascar has not yet recovered.

He stated that the U.S. presence and virtual occupation of South Korea prevents a peaceful reunification and the end of foreign intervention in Korea. He expressed support for the government and people of Panama in their struggle to have the canal agreements complied with.

He expressed the sympathy of his country with the Guatemalan people "who are raising their weapons against the cruel tyranny imposed since the U.S. intervention of 1954."

He also expressed support for the efforts of the Cypriot people to maintain their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in a united and nonaligned republic.

In referring to Southeast Asia, Malmierca said that there is only one negotiated solution to put an end to existing tensions.

He reiterated the support of his country for the proposals of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea to hold a regional conference with that goal in mind, and with the participation of the other states of the region.

We also stress our unavoidable recognition of the sole and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people, the People's Government of Kampuchea, he noted.



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Regarding the Afghan situation, Malmierca said that in its capacity as president of the nonaligned movement, Cuba has offered its good offices to find a political negotiated solution to the situation in West Asia.

After reiterating the willingness to continue the Cuban efforts, the minister stressed that the solution must include the end to the intervention and interference in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

He added that this must have the necessary international guarantees and the establishment of conditions that will permit the normalization of relations among all the states in the regions based on the principles and goals of nonalignment.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF CAMAGUEY REPORTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 7 Aug 81 pp 10-13

[Text] Once a tourist asked a native of Camaguey why the streets in downtown Camaguey were so tangled up. The host jocularly replied that it was a strategy of the old residents so that when pirates came in they would get lost and it would be easier to combat them.

From Anecdote to Reality, Much to Say

The Agramontian capital is a typical example of irregular colonial urbanism, stemming from the constant relocation of the town from one place to another over a period of nearly 100 years, until it reached its final resting place.

Santa Maria del Puerto del Principe was originally founded in 1514 on a tongue of land near the bay of Nuevitas. The shortage of water and the aridity of the land forced the inhabitants to move the town to the southwest, toward the Indian chieftainship of Caonao. Years later it was moved to its current site.

These factors explain the lack of a central nucleus in the town's structure. That is why there are several plazas scattered around the city, such as Las Mercedes, La Soledad, El Carmen and San Juan de Dios, to name a few. The main public buildings were erected around these plazas.

In addition, there is the whimsical layout of streets, which resemble rivers. Their design is of medieval influence.

400 Years Later

After touring the limits of the old city and turning your sites to the north, toward the industrial city of Nuevitas, you will find a spacious avenue which Agramontes residents call Circumvallation. That is where the Camaguey of the year 2000 lies.

Nearly 20 kilometers long, the avenue forms the northeastern part of a peripheral highway which will encircle the city. In that zone, the provincial capital's General Plan for the year 2000 will be implemented. Already more than 20 facilities have been installed or are under construction on both sides of this broad street.

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Five years ago an army of construction workers blazed the trail of the new avenue through dense brush and weeds, while along the sides the new buildings began to rise.

About 5 kilometers from the city, the first higher learning center built by the Revolution can be found: the University of Camaguey. More than 8,000 students are registered in its normal and directed courses.

The General Maximo Gomez Vocational School is an extravagant combination of functional and aesthetic shapes which symbolize the focus on the new man in this privileged area. More than 2,000 students at the secondary and pre-university levels study in its classrooms.

The Higher Pedagogical Institute, the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational School, the Provincial School of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), the sports centers, Schools for Sports Beginners (EIDE), Elementary Physical Education School (EPEF) and the Vocational Arts School, all built here, offer a wide range of courses to nearly 5,000 students in different fields.

Near the University is the delegation of the State Statistics Committee, which has a computation center that boasts modern computer equipment. It has the third highest data processing capacity in the country.

Travelers on the way to other provinces will be interested in the El Tinajon multi-purpose center, which has a restaurant, cafeteria, souvenir shop and service station. The latter's wide lanes and 12 fuel pumps make it the largest in the country.

In this area there is also a Clinical-Surgical Hospital which has a rehabilitation ward for patients from other provinces, and a Home for the Physically and Mentally Handicapped, which will open soon.

#### Industrial Growth

There is a pasteurizing plant, a poultry slaughterhouse, and a bakery. The agricultural meat packing plant that is being completed, with its tile floors and 11 of the 21 refrigerators in operation, is another industrial facility that is being utilized in the northern part of the city of Camaguey.

A new railroad junction is now being built. It will have a passenger station, a yard and a loading and unloading area. This will solve the problem of traffic jams resulting when trains come through the present terminal downtown.

There is also a Meat Complex under construction, which will have the capacity to process some 1,000 beef carcasses per day. A mechanical plant will provide about 4,000 jobs, and a water treatment plant will help improve the city's water supplies.

Among the agricultural facilities is a soil and fertilizer laboratory, whose architecture and capacity make it unique in the country and enable it to serve areas outside this territory. Camaguey also has the largest hydroponic garden in Cuba, where high crop yields are obtained from at least six vegetable products, planted in stone containers.

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In the coming years construction will begin on residential areas and a textile plant, as well as scientific and cultural centers. This year a brewery will begin construction.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

SANCTI SPIRITUS PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT WORKING TO END PROVINCE'S PROBLEMS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 28 Aug 81 pp 47-49

[Interview with Hipolito Rodriguez, president of the Sancti Spiritus People's Government by Manuel Gonzalez Billo, date, time and place not given]

[Text] Hipolito Rodriguez, president of the People's Government of the province of Sancti Spiritus, says with absolute confidence that sooner or later all problems will be solved. He assures us that when the new Provincial Assembly is constituted, after the October elections, the province will have solved 50 percent of the electors' complaints, a figure higher than the current 43.7 percent.

[Question] As I understand it, you have a method for systematizing the electors' complaints.

[Answer] We created a card system to deal with all complaints by district. The card manager, who remains in the municipality, classifies the problems according to the stage they are at. If you come now to a municipality and want to know what problems exist, you just have to ask for the card.

The card means that the delegate has to deal with all the problems in the municipality once a month. Now the delegate is more committed, more controlled; he cannot procrastinate the solution to a problem.

The card also allows the executive committee to check up on the response of the enterprise. Every 4 months the provincial committee visits the municipalities and goes over the cards and responses. There is strict control.

This method has yielded very good results. We can tell what was complained of in every district in 1980, what was solved and what is pending.

This method helps us give a positive response, not necessarily because the problem is solved, but because the response has more clout, more reasoning, and this lends prestige and authority to the delegate in his constituents' eyes.

[Question] How have the work commissions functioned?

[Answer] Some well, others have problems. The social assistance commission has done a good job because it has responsible members. They have done everything they

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were asked to do; they have made profound analyses and useful recommendations to the Provincial Assembly.

In general, the commissions have been helpful; they provide the means to make decisions.

[Question] What are the province's basic problems?

[Answer] We have three serious problems: roads, septic tanks and electricity, aside from others such as housing and services.

[Question] What is happening with roads?

[Answer] When the People's Government was formed, three municipalities in the province were isolated: La Sierpe, Fomento and Yaguajay. This caused problems, even for transporting goods. We have had problems with the bridges on the highway to Yaguajay. But by next year the problem should be solved.

Fomento, another municipality with problems, already has a highway. We are finishing the asphalt pavement on the La Sierpe highway, which is important because the rice enterprise and a livestock enterprise are there.

The road situation in Trinidad has had an impact on international tourism. There two bridges collapsed; one of them, on the Canas River, has already been rebuilt. We were assigned a brigade with road equipment for the Escambray highways, which have been neglected for years.

The Ministry of Construction gave us the road maintenance enterprise with some resources, including an asphalt plant. We have assigned more resources to this enterprise, and we are setting up a system for equipment maintenance. We still need a hot asphalt plant and a cold asphalt plant.

Next year we plan to pave the highway between Trinidad and Sancti Spiritus, and the Cabaiguan highway too.

Roads have been given top priority in the province, and by next year I assure you there will be notable progress.

[Question] And the septic tanks, what is the problem?

[Answer] We have had some difficulties. Right now we have gotten nine pump wagons, which are a great help. This semester we will receive more.

There are municipalities where you can call in because of a septic tank problem and they send out a truck right away. I should mention that in some municipalities there were as many as 500 septic tanks that overflowed.

There is one concern: The equipment they have sent us runs on gasoline, and for this kind of work it is recommended that diesel-powered equipment be used, because the engine is always running due to the nature of the work the equipment performs. We think that in the future we may have some problems for this reason.

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[Question] And you say that the third serious problem is electricity.

[Answer] Very serious. The electrical system is in very bad condition. Here in the capital city we do not have a double circuit, which the other provinces do have.

Trinidad had its own electrical plant, but when it joined the national system it was given some insulators that work on an alternating basis. To give you an idea, Trinidad has gone up to 4 days without lights, and this is a municipality with museums and hotels, where tourists go.

For this year we requested 172 kilometers of lines, but they gave us 75, and now that has been reduced to 48. The proportion of the reduction is great, especially considering that this province does not have a double circuit.

At all the assemblies the electors have brought up the electricity problem. Not only has the population been directly affected, but the agricultural workplaces and sugarcane enterprises have also been hurt. The 25-room hotel in Fomento cannot open until the electricity problem is solved.

The solution to this problem is not in the hands of the People's Government, but those of the nation.

[Question] You were saying that another problem, minor in comparison with the others, is that of services.

[Answer] Yes, the greatest deficiencies are in light sales services: beverages, croquettes. In the restaurants the problem is almost completely gone. We have studied the service problem.

One of the weak points is poor management. For example, on Saturdays and Sundays some employees do not show up, although they do come to work the rest of the week. There is a lack of discipline on the part of the manager. There is also a lack of hygiene in the units; that is the responsibility of the manager.

In the dry cleaning and watch repair sectors the service is bad; by the end of next year there should be an improvement, because we are expanding capacities.

[Question] I have learned that there are serious problems at day care centers, such as leaks and a shortage of cots.

[Answer] I knew you were going to ask me about that. The problems exist only in the municipality of Sancti Spiritus. What happened is due to negligence and carelessness. There is no reason to lack cots at a day care center if we have canvas, wood and carpenters.

This semester all the problems will be eliminated.

[Question] Well, let us go now to the issue I mentioned to you, recreation. I want you to tell me about the solutions.

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[Answer] We have immediate and long-term solutions for recreation in the province.

I will talk first about a plan that is already in operation at Playa Ancon, in Trinidad, which serves the whole province. There we built a campground that opened on 19 May. There are more than 200 cabins, which can be rented through the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC). Food prices are reasonable, affordable for any worker. We transport people from the municipalities in small buses for the regular price of bus transportation. The people are happy with this plan; we have received positive comments.

In Yaguajay they built a beach, in an effort by the municipality's People's Power to deal with recreational needs.

We are building 25-room hotels in Fomento, Jatibonico and Taguasco. These hotels, while solving lodging problems, will also have restaurants to serve the local population and can function as nighttime entertainment centers. The three hotels will be finished next year.

Here in Sancti Spiritus we built the Los Laureles Motel, which meets a great need. It will be expanded during this 5-year period. Also here in the city we renovated a building and converted it into a youth center. We will also put in a dancing area where a "Spiritus" punch will be sold, for example, at low prices. There will also be soft drinks and juices for the youths to purchase.

The Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN) gave us some dollars to make purchases abroad. We decided to buy things that would directly benefit the population; we thought of buying soda fountains, soft drink machines and coffee pots. But the first thing we decided to buy are ten completely equipped jukeboxes with spare parts. We will place one in each municipality, except for La Sierpe, because there it would not be used enough due to the number of inhabitants. Here in Sancti Spiritus we will put one in the youth center and another at the dancing area.

We thought that these jukeboxes would contribute a great deal to meeting the youths' recreational needs. The idea is for all of them to be installed by the time the Provincial Assembly is constituted.

We will also build a multi-purpose theater, where any kind of show can be put on. We are hoping that by next year all municipalities will have the ten cultural modules.

We are paying special attention to museums in the province. In Trinidad there are nine, and now we are going to put the national museum of the Struggle Against Bandits there. It will be housed in the old jail.

For the long term, we are working on a project for the Yayabo River, here in the city of Sancti Spiritus. There used to be a recreational center there, but when we won the Revolution and industry and housing were built up, the river became polluted.

We will clean up the river and make it a major recreational area over the next 5 years or more. We will put in a bathing area, a boating center, a swimming pool, dancing areas and many other facilities, including restaurants and cafeterias.



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There are other ideas that will be implemented in the short or long term.

We think that little by little we will be able to meet the recreational needs of the population, and of youth in particular. This year and next the changes will become evident.

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CUBA

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 31 Jul 81 pp 8-13

[Text] At the Novovoronezh nuclear powerplant built 17 years ago in the central Soviet Union, a poster mounted over the entrance to the turbine room announces, in bold letters: "Let the atom be a worker and not a soldier!"

The phrase engraved there bears witness to the fact that just as at other powerplants in the great country of Lenin, the Soviets work here with feverish enthusiasm on the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The scientists in the USSR are convinced -- and the highest leaders of the party and the government so proclaim -- that if not all, at least a large share of mankind will disappear from the face of the earth if the blind, brutal forces of the capitalist reactionaries and imperialism dare, with irresponsible determination, to set off atomic bombs.

The peaceful policy aimed at eliminating or substantially limiting atomic weapons, if we want life to continue on our planet, has been ignored by the capitalist powers, mainly the United States, contrary to the appeals for peace made by the Soviet Union and repeated warnings from the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Leonid Brezhnev, that the atom should be used for the good of, not to the detriment of, mankind.

Cuba Before and After 1959

In "La Historia Me Absolvera" [History Will Absolve Me], Fidel reminded us that "everyone agrees that the need for industrialization of the country is urgent, that we need metallurgical industries, chemical industries, paper industries, "but the government stands idly by and industrialization never comes."

After the Revolution overthrew the old political-economic-social structure, Cuba began a new life and embarked upon the path of progressive alternatives, which could not fail to include agrarian reform, nationalization of the monopolies that exploited workers and farmers, and industrialization.

Before 1959, did we even have enough thermoelectric potential to embark upon that urgent and far-reaching undertaking?

Absolutely, positively not!

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As part of its broad range of constructive plans, the Revolution undertook national electrification and took electric power to the most remote rural regions of the country, where previously, the people had only known the traditional kerosene lamp or the typical native *chismosita*.

At the same time this extremely important source of energy was being developed, large industrial complexes were cropping up in all regions of Cuba, complexes that necessarily operate with electricity, and the raw material that moves this powerful machinery day and night is expensive and has to be imported.

Cuba does not have its own fossil fuels such as oil or coal, nor does it have large, powerful rivers that would provide it with water power to meet its future energy needs. Our country has no other alternative than to develop nuclear energy, which will meet the growing demand and which today, with the price of oil, is more economical than traditional sources.

In his address summarizing the events commemorating the seventh anniversary of the defeat of Yankee imperialism at the Bay of Pigs, Fidel said, in April 1968:

"When man discovered the energy contained in the atom, he discovered a source of energy capable of supplying the unlimited future needs of mankind. Atomic power, which mankind first came to know as an instrument of war and destruction, is at the same time the only solution of mankind in the future.

"Consequently, any country that has any foresight and that looks to the future has to think about the generation of electric power using nuclear energy. Our country cannot continue to build more and more electric powerplants based on oil. Once we have completed the current program to set up thermoelectric powerplants, we shall have to think about facilities that use atomic energy.

"That is why," Fidel said, "our Revolution is already recruiting outstanding students to study nuclear physics and become the engineers who will operate this type of plant. This is one of the issues of most interest to the world today."

#### Nuclear Science and Technology

Not only at the nuclear powerplants are the nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes applied. They are also utilized for the production of radio isotopes and in many branches of the economy. In medicine, agriculture and industry, as well as in physics, chemistry and biomedical research, we find various uses.

Specific examples of its applications include the following: determination of soil moisture, the volume of rivers, the calcium and potassium content of grass and milk, densities and levels of industrial processes, mineral composition, the conservation of food by irradiation, and geological prospecting (exploration). In medicine, nuclear techniques are used for the treatment and diagnosis of different diseases, the sterilization of surgical equipment, and the creation of ideal conditions in which microorganisms that produce antibiotics must live, so as to improve productivity, and so on.

Institute of Nuclear Physics (ININ)

This Institute, since 1974 known as the Nuclear Research Institute, was established with the fraternal, valuable help of the Soviet Union and as the culmination of the work done by the Nuclear Energy Group of the Cuban Academy of Science. It opened in January 1969.

Beginning on that date, with the advice of Soviet specialists, Cuba embarked upon the task of putting nuclear sciences on a scientific footing in our country. We would also have university graduates in radiochemistry, dosimetry, nuclear reactors and radiological protection, trained at the Moscow State University.

At the same time and without interruption, the training of Cuban technical and scientific cadres continued at various centers and institutions in the Soviet Union.

Along with the incorporation of the first graduates in the USSR, Cuba intensified activities to give advanced training to the personnel that would fundamentally be responsible for work and research. In 1971, the number of workers at the Institute increased significantly with the entry of a group of physics and chemistry graduates who had completed their education at the University of Havana.

At the same time we planned for new work, we strengthened cooperation between the National Nuclear Research Institute and the State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy from the USSR, including the signing of new agreements on advice and the visits of Cubans to Soviet nuclear centers. Regarding international relations, they were established -- and have been maintained -- since the founding of the Institute, especially with the International Atomic Energy Organization under the United Nations, with headquarters in Vienna, the Cuba-USSR Unified Nuclear Research Institute, the Sossendorf Central Institute in the German Democratic Republic, and the CEMA Permanent Committee for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy.

Cienfuegos Powerplant

Fulfilling the energetic plans of the Cuban Government and as a result of the enthusiastic cooperation of our Soviet brothers, the agreements for the construction in Cuba of the first nuclear powerplant were signed.

Talks began in Moscow in 1974. At that time, the agency involved was the Ministry of the Electrical Industry and later, the Academy of Sciences, the ministries of Public Health, Mining and Interior and other government organizations came to participate. Two years later, research began for the location of the site in the central area of the island.

"Why in the central region?" we asked engineer Alfonso Afont Pifat, deputy director of the First Nuclear Powerplant Budgeted Investment Unit of the Ministry of Basic Industry.

"The reason is the requirements of our national electric power system," Afont explained. "There is obvious industrial development in the central region of Cuba. The area chosen meets the hydrological, geological and other needs."

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"What is the main difference between a thermonuclear powerplant and the plants in use today?" we asked.

"A thermonuclear powerplant is a plant that generates electric power, like those at Mariel, Rente and Cienfuegos. The difference lies in the fact that its main source of energy is the process of nuclear fission, which replaces the burning of oil."

"What is fission?"

"It is a type of reaction in which the neutron from a source emitting neutrons or from a previous fission strikes a uranium nucleus, which divides (splits) into two light nuclei. In this reaction, a large quantity of energy is given off.

"Uranium (nuclear fuel) is a cheaper and safer source. Our solution lies in building plants that generate electric power by using this radioactive element, but for this, we need a substantial number of highly skilled specialists. A plant of this type requires the services of many high- and intermediate-level technicians. At both levels, most personnel will need complete nuclear training."

High-level personnel now receive training at the School of Nuclear Science and Technology of the University of Havana and at specialized institutes in the USSR. The rest of the personnel for the powerplant includes graduates of the country's university centers, where additional training is received.

Intermediate-level personnel will be trained at the Cienfuegos Nuclear Polytechnical School, which will be set up in September of this year, with the beginning of the 1981-1982 school year, where skilled workers will also be trained.

The polytechnical school is being built near the site where the thermonuclear powerplant will be and at the present time, final touches are being put on the large, modern building by workers from the Industrial Projects Construction Enterprise No 6, which will also build the powerplant.

With the beginning of this school year in the new facilities of the polytechnical school, the students will study intermediate-level nuclear technology and intermediate-level automatic control. Graduates of this center will first go to the Jurgua powerplant. This includes technicians as well as skilled workers. All working personnel will receive the indispensable training in thermonuclear technology. In addition, every worker must study and pass the standards of radiological protection and work safety for this type of plant.

The polytechnical school has seven laboratories: physics, nuclear physics, automatic control, metals, chemistry and biology, chemical analysis, electronics and electrical engineering. It has six shops: assembly, operation and steam generator and reactor repair, dosimetry, electronuclear powerplants, central assistance and reagent protection, languages. There will be five senior teaching posts.

Like all centers of study that the Revolution has built and continues to build for intermediate-level education, this school has its administration, teaching administration, meeting room, files, administration of nuclear activities, foreign

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technical assistance office, theater, student dormitories, faculty dormitories, recreation and living rooms, clinic, barbershop and beauty salon, kitchen, dining room, green space and playing fields.

Anatoli Cherbakov, Soviet electromechanical engineer who has been responsible for the setting up of the laboratories, offices and workshops of this plant as well as of the Armando Garcia Aspuru Energy Polytechnical School in Santiago de Cuba, told us:

"I have been in Cuba for 3 years. I like this country very much; the Cubans are very friendly and brotherly. It is a pleasure to work with them, whether they be construction workers or professors. They are all happy, enthusiastic, hard-working and content. The students are magnificent. They are already reaping the fruits from the Santiago polytechnical school. These young people are very good technicians and they will be very useful in the field of electric power."

Comrade Cherbakov talked to us in Spanish about our customs, the fun-loving nature of the Cubans, and he expressed his regret over leaving Cuba so soon even though his work contract has been completed.

"I have been very happy in Cuba. I am grateful for all the attention I have received, but I want to say that with the same willingness that I have come to this beautiful country, the first free territory in America, I would go to Ethiopia, Angola, Nicaragua or wherever my cooperation is needed. We communists practice proletarian internationalism with true pleasure because this is part of our Marxist-Leninist education."

5 de Septiembre Polytechnical School

We visited the 5 de Septiembre Polytechnical School in Cienfuegos, where we were welcomed by Director Francisco Mendez and other members of the board of directors. We were informed about the progress of students beginning their studies in nuclear technology. They and a group enrolled at another polytechnical school will make up the class of the new polytechnical school that will open in September.

"There is no lack of difficulties," the director told us, "but they are being resolved. These young people are very promising."

We were able to talk at length with several students, all of whom expressed the importance of the career they have chosen. Orestes Morales, one of the most enthusiastic, said he was convinced that "energy is a fundamental branch for our country's economy. Cuba needs to develop its industries," he said, "and to create many more. For this purpose, we need large amounts of electric power, which can only be obtained from nuclear powerplants."

"What does this career mean to you?" we asked him.

"For me, it means a great deal. I like the field of energy. I visited the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Thermolectric Powerplant to see its operation because nearly all of its machinery is like that of a thermonuclear plant. The difference is the reactors."

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University of Havana

It is not widely known that at the University of Havana, the School of Nuclear Science and Technology trains high-level specialists in nuclear energy.

Dean Jose Roig told us that the graduates will work at the Juragua Powerplant and will teach at the school or do research for the ININ.

He continued:

"Although our school will begin its operations this year, nuclear energy was already being taught at the Jose Antonio Echeverria Advanced Polytechnical School. That is why we have students at all levels in the field. In July, we shall have a new class of engineers graduating in nuclear energy. The school has connections with the Research Institute and with the Ministry of Basic Industry in the area of teaching and in research. Students practice or do research for the national enterprises, as do the professors."

Personnel

To use a phrase in vogue, Cuba already has a number of duly qualified technicians, some working for the thermonuclear powerplant. The first group of Cuban engineers went to the Soviet Union in 1971 to receive postgraduate training in Moscow. They worked at the Novovoronezh Powerplant. In 1973, another group of university graduates studied at the same centers. They all had some background in nuclear energy that they obtained in Cuba. In 1975, more graduates went.

Those specializing in the USSR are working for the Projects Enterprise of the Ministry of Basic Industry, in the central offices of that ministry, in the Juragua Budgeted Investment Unit and at the University of Havana.

"There is a fourth group," Daniel Calcagno, a thermonuclear technician, told us, "made up of comrades who in February completed their special training at the Moscow Energy Institute. They completed thermophysics for 5 years. Previously, they had had preparatory studies and Russian in Cuba for 1 year. In May, several members of the group joined the Juragua Budgeted Unit."

There we had the opportunity to meet with engineers Miguel A. Perez Jardines and Luis Angel Medina Ramos. Both decided to give us a single response to our questions. They told us:

"Our group was made up of comrades who had belonged to the Nuclear Physics Interest Club of the Lenin Vocational School. We met because of our interest in the field and were lucky enough to have the help of a highly trained professor who had studied in the USSR. His classes prepared us for the activity to which we would finally devote ourselves. There were plans coordinated between Iconsomol and the UJC [Union of Young Communists]. Upon our return, we went into production. We are anxious to serve science, technology and the Revolution wherever we would be most useful, but we believe that it is here, in Juragua, where we must begin our work."

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Training

The training of Cuban specialists in this field of unlimited possibilities moves steadily forward. Through the signing of an agreement with a Study and Training Center at the Novovoronezh Powerplant, personnel will be trained for operations, laboratory work and maintenance. The first group will begin its training at the end of this year. Others will leave for Novovoronezh in 1982.

Electrical engineers from the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Thermoelectric Powerplant with some background in nuclear energy have been chosen to take a course in theory and practice in the Soviet Union lasting 1 year. We talked with a number of them and they all agreed that the trip will complete their professional training. The knowledge they acquire will be very beneficial when, on their return, they go to work for the first nuclear powerplant in Cuba.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BRIEFS

MONTANE-GUYANESE VICE PRESIDENT MEET--Havana, 22 Sep (PL)--Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop, vice president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, held a friendly meeting here with Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba. Ramsaroop, president of the Ruling National Congress Party (NCP), heads the Guyanese delegation to the 68th Conference of the Interparliamentary Union that should close tomorrow in this capital. Bilateral relations and the progress of the interparliamentary conference were examined during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the Guyanese ambassador to Cuba, Cecil Pilgrim.  
[Text] [PA222001 Havana PRELA in English 1925 GMT 22 Sep 81]

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