

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Thursday, 1 August 1991







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		—Top Secret—	
			(b)(3
	Contents		
			(b)(1)
			(b)(1) (b)(3)
Special Analyses			(b)(1) (b)(3)
	Cuba: Bracing for Pan-American Games	14	(b)(3)

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Top Secret

1 August 1991



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	Special Analysis			
JBA:	Bracing for Pan-American Games			
CODA:	Most Cubans probably are proud to be hosting the Pan-American			
	occasion to express dissatisfaction over the domestic political and economic malaise.			
	Havana has been preparing to host the Games for several years, diverting scarce construction materials and other resources to build or renovate dozens of sports facilities in Havana and Santiago de Cuba. the athletic facilities will be ready, although construction crews had to work around the clock to complete some sites. (b)(3)			
	Time for Pride, but Possible Protests			
	President Castro probably is hoping that the Games will divert attention from the island's economic difficulties. Sports are popular, and Cuban athletes have performed well in the past; Castro is calculating that their successes will give the populace a much-needed psychological boost.	(b)(3		
	Some Cubans, nevertheless, resent their scarce resources being used to benefit foreign visitors and athletes during a period of severe economic austerity. Housing and other public service building projects have ceased—aggravating an already critical housing shortage—in order to ensure adequate material for Games' facilities. Longshoremen initially balked at unloading shipments of food destined for the Games, Some construction workers—who expected to receive athletes' housing units in return for their voluntary labor—are angry over rumors that the government plans to set aside some units for a tourist complex,			
	Additional strains on food supplies and on transportation and other services during the Games may fuel resentment further, although the security forces probably are capable of controlling small, spontaneous popular protests. some activists may attempt to capitalize on the large foreign media presence to stage incidents—a human rights demonstration or the appearance of an antiregime banner, for example			
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	Top Secret 14 1 August 1991	(b)(3)		

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Difficulties After Games	

Even if the Games boost Cuban morale, this probably will be short lived. Food shortages are likely to be worse later in the summer, when stocks usually are low, and a public perception that the Games were the cause would undercut Castro's efforts to blame the scarcities on shortfalls in Soviet deliveries and would focus popular disaffection on his economic mismanagement.

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1 August 1991

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