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CUBA - LATIN AMERICA

- I. Latin American media treated US break in relations as flash item, but early comment took no predominant line.
- A. Leading Brazilian newspaper called US rupture worst crisis in pan-American history; other Latin American countries urged to seek solution and not merely follow US example since this would make them "mere satellites."
 - B. Mexican foreign minister told US embassy 4 January that it now difficult to influence Cuba back into inter-American family and that Cubans need "a little bit of outside help" in solving their problem.
 - C. Latin American Communists and front groups urging popular backing for Castro.
 - D. Sino-Soviet Bloc charges break is proof of US aggressive intent, continues to warn that Cuba has powerful friends which "will not abandon her," but no specific threats made.
 - E. No evidence of imminent Cuban move against Guantanamo base but...
 - 1. Cuban ambassador in Mexico said 3 January that Cuba will present "petition" to UN "to have base eliminated."
- II. Castro regime has taken Cuba almost all the way into Sino-Soviet bloc.
- A. Over half Cuba's 1961 trade will be with Bloc.
 - B. Bloc military equipment arriving in sizeable quantities--some 20,000 tons to date.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997

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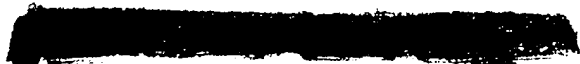
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1. Shipments thus far include helicopters, large quantities rifles and machineguns, some medium tanks, armored personnel carriers, field and AA artillery, and mortars.
 2. More shipments probably en route, but highly unlikely to include latest models of major Soviet military items--but maybe MIGs.

C. In 1960, Cuba established diplomatic relations with all Bloc but East Germany.

D. Though resistance growing inside Cuba, opposition not now sufficiently coordinated for successful move.

II. Castro regime and Castroism a prime bloc instrument for subverting the rest of Latin America.

A. In Central America, serious Communist penetration under way in El Salvador and coup threatens in Guatemala.

1. Following coup in October, Salvadoran Communists and pro-Communists won posts in government under military-civilian junta and are permitted free reign outside government.
 2. Communist leaders now in Cuba, for guidance and possibly support.
 3. Communists building mass support in rural areas.
 4. Ydigoras regime in Guatemala weakened by army disaffection highlighted by abortive revolt 13 November and by increased opposition activity.
 5. Though leading dissidents claim to be anti-Communist, Communists are actively seeking to exploit situation and Ydigoras is a leading target for Cuban subversion.
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B. Castroites and Communists responsible for widespread disorders in Venezuela in mid-October and again in late November and early December.

