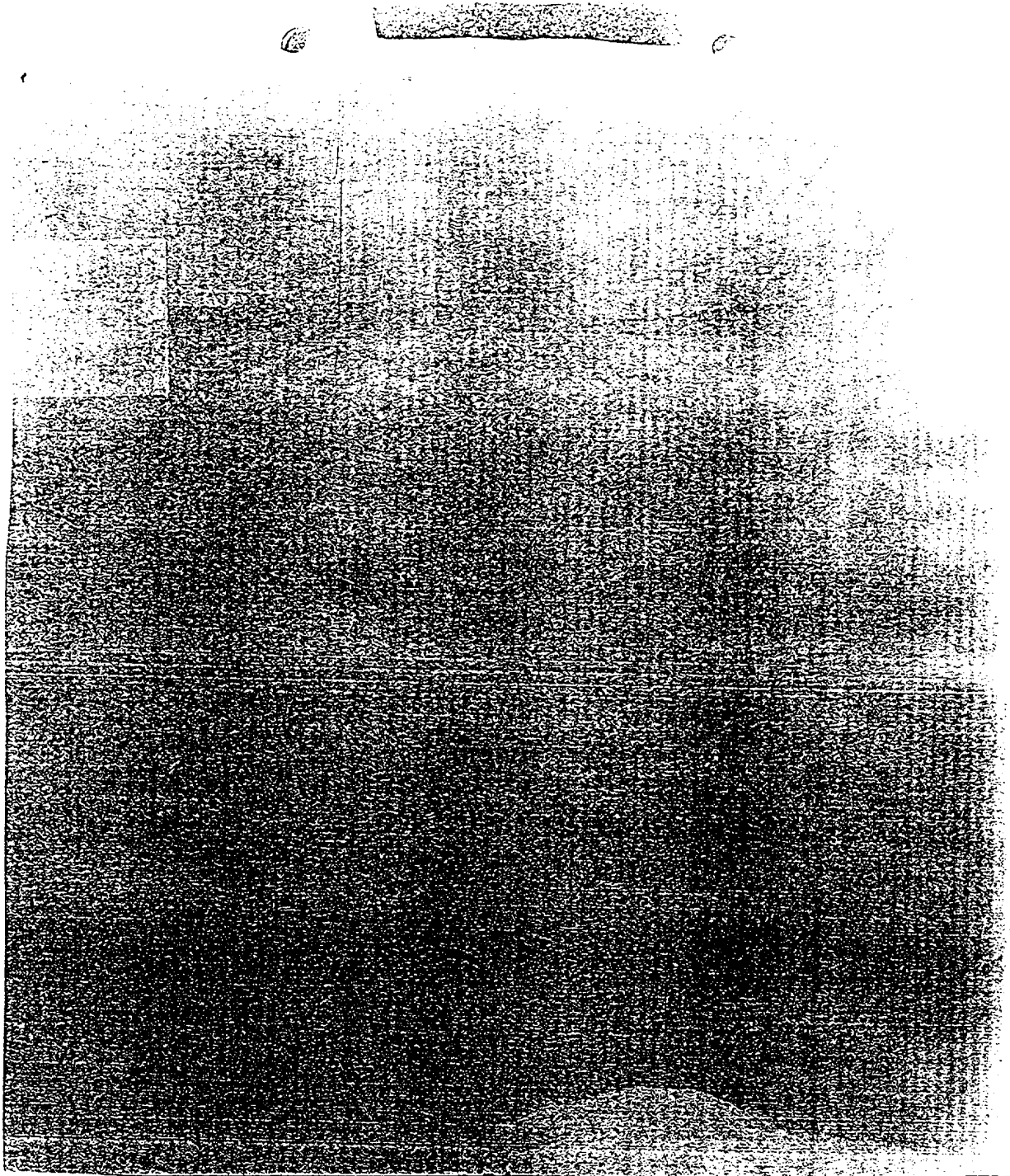


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LATIN AMERICA


9. Cuba Actively Pursuing Neutralist Foreign Policy: The Castro government is making a strong attempt to assume a position of leadership among underdeveloped, neutralist countries with which it is already strengthening trade and



diplomatic relations. Foreign Minister Raul Roa has called for a conference of "underindustrialized" nations in Havana in mid-1960, claiming that its only purpose would be to unite efforts by these countries to achieve fulfillment of the UN Charter. Roa is on a trip to the UAR, Yugoslavia, Greece, Tunisia, and Morocco, and will discuss a proposed conference agenda with the governments of those countries.

Three other teams of Cuban economic and diplomatic representatives will visit Africa, Asia, and Latin America this month for exploratory talks. If official support for the Cuban project is not forthcoming, a conference of "leaders" of special-interest groups will probably be substituted.

Castro's determination to follow a third-position foreign policy is consistent with his claim that the Cuban revolution is a "humanistic" middle path between capitalism and communism. Cuba's policies in the UN, OAS, and elsewhere, however, seem designed primarily to assert defiance of the US. The acting foreign minister's characterization on 5 January of the conference participants as "the hungry countries" indicates an intention to propagandize the moral and economic responsibilities of more fortunate countries, particularly the United States.



10.

