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TO BAY OF PIGS

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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3. Increased Cuban Interest in Communist China: The Cuban revolutionary government, particularly pro-Communist Defense Minister Raul Castro, has shown marked interest in Communist China. Laudatory descriptions by several recent Cuban visitors of Peiping's progress have had wide publicity in Cuba. One of these travelers is reported to have said he brought Raul Castro a verbal message from the Chinese Communist foreign minister that 20 industrial and agricultural technicians already promised would arrive in Cuba during January. An exposition of Chinese Communist products is also reportedly scheduled in Havana this month.

Although Communist China has not increased its purchases of Cuban sugar over former years, it received a bargain price--below the already low world-market price--from the Castro government on a recent sale of 50,000 tons. Poland also received a bargain on an equal quantity. With an abnormally large carry-over from its 1959 crop and the 1960 harvest now under way, the Cuban Government--which traditionally controls sugar production and sales--may use such bargain transactions to further its determined policy of expanding its trade relations with all countries other than the US.

The Castro government may decide that recognition of Communist China is consistent with Cuba's neutralist foreign policy.

