



LATIN AMERICA

- 4. Cuban-Soviet Relations: The American Embassy in Havana believes that the most significant results of Soviet First Deputy Premier Mikoyan's trip to Cuba are the expressed intention of the Castro government to collaborate actively with the USSR in the UN and the offer of Soviet technical assistance in the building of Cuban factories. The commercial agreement may eventually be proved disadvantageous to Cuba, but meanwhile it adds to the propaganda benefits the USSR is deriving from the visit.

The new rapport with the USSR has apparently received enthusiastic support from the majority of Cubans. However, considerable booing of Mikoyan's appearance on theater newsreels indicates that opposition exists.

Embassy officials believe that the closer ties with the USSR, viewed in conjunction with other recent Cuban developments, are a long step toward putting the Castro government in the Soviet camp. They feel there is little possibility that the United States can reach a satisfactory relationship with the present regime and that, as Castro's control over Cuban public opinion tightens, the possibility of agreement will become even more remote.

Diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR will probably be resumed shortly. [redacted] indicate that Castro is also making overtures toward diplomatic relations with Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria. [redacted] the Cuban Embassy in Washington to propose to satellite missions there an exchange of representatives at the legation level. [redacted]

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