

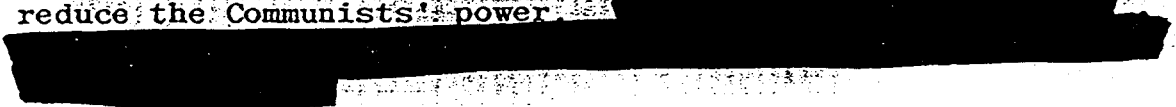
LATIN AMERICA

13. Castro May Plan Internal Political Maneuvers: The dissolution on 24 February of a progovernment but semiautonomous military-political group is reported to have been done on direct orders from Fidel Castro. The move, in itself of little consequence, may be preliminary to an attempt to absorb other political groups, including the Cuban Communist party (PSP), into the 26th of July Movement.

On 1 March a columnist close to Castro said the action on 24 February should be a good example to other groups, "especially a certain opportunistic party which jumped on the band wagon during the last days of the revolution." The Brazilian ambassador to Cuba, who has followed the course of the Cuban revolution closely, is reliably reported to believe that Castro will soon act strongly against local Communists with a view to placing himself in a good bargaining position with the United States.

Some plausibility is given such a move by Castro's known impatience with any real or implied challenge to his authority or even any difference of opinion. He has seemed increasingly obsessed with a desire to shape all Cuba to fit his concept of the revolution, as is evident in his regime's growing domination over agriculture, commerce, labor, industry, the press, and education.

The PSP owes much of its overt successes of the past year to its self-proclaimed close identification with the Castro revolution. However, having been outlawed from late 1953 until January 1959, it probably believes itself sufficiently experienced in underground operations and well-enough entrenched in the government to feel that ostensible absorption by the 26th of July Movement would not seriously reduce the Communists' power.



CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1997

