

NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS

LATIN AMERICA

5. US-Cuban Relations: The US Embassy in Havana sees no hope that the United States will ever be able to establish a satisfactory relationship with any Cuban government dominated by Fidel Castro or his close associates. The embassy believes that the government's charges of US responsibility for the explosion in Havana harbor and the mounting anti-US frenzy in government-controlled media indicate a deliberate attempt to precipitate a crisis and force the US to take drastic measures.

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[REDACTED]

There have also been reports that Cubans who previously were cool to Castro's anti-American diatribes seem increasingly resentful of the United States, and a minor incident could cause an outbreak of violence against US personnel or interests.

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6. Venezuelan and Cuban Political Groups Maintain Liaison: The visit of representatives of the Communist-dominated Venezuelan Press Association (AVP) and the planned visit of an unofficial Venezuelan economic mission to Cuba reflect the sustained public and press support in Venezuela for the Castro regime, despite the cool official relations between the two countries. The AVP delegates intend to invite Cuban and Mexican journalists to a Latin American congress of journalists in Caracas, apparently in an effort to undercut a conference of journalists scheduled for Lima shortly by the AFL-CIO. Two Venezuelan Communist party (PCV) members attended the February plenum of the Cuban Socialist (Communist) party in Havana, and two top-level Venezuelan labor leaders traveled to Cuba in February. Meanwhile, the three parties in President Betancourt's coalition and the PCV have founded the Venezuelan Committee for the Defense of the Cuban Revolution.

On the other hand, Betancourt, who is privately critical of Castro's authoritarian policies, has expressed concern over Cuba's five-year sugar agreement with the USSR, signed at the conclusion of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan's visit to Havana. According to [REDACTED], the Venezuelan ambassador advised him that the Venezuelan Government would not support Cuba for a Security Council seat in the United Nations "because of the agreement Cuba made with Russia regarding cooperation in the world organization under the pretext of ensuring cooperation and coexistence between nations." The recent reported defection of the Cuban naval attaché in Caracas, who denounced Castro's dictatorial methods, may also reinforce Betancourt's view that Castro is coming to resemble Dominican dictator Trujillo.

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