

CUBA

The Castro government is moving to implement promptly the establishment of relations with the USSR announced on 7 May.

*SSK* [redacted] the Foreign Ministry in Havana instructed the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City [redacted] furnish visas to all Soviet diplomatic personnel who may request them, [redacted]

*SSK* The USSR claims it never recognized Batista after his 1952 coup, although it did not break relations until more than a week after the coup, when Batista officials interfered with Soviet diplomatic couriers going from Mexico to the Cuban Legation in Havana.

The Soviet ambassador to Mexico, who was in Havana for the announcement and for the exchange of ratifications of the recent Soviet-Cuban trade pact, may also have transmitted his government's agreement for Faure Chaumont, chosen as Cuban ambassador to Moscow. Chaumont has few qualifications for a diplomatic post, and the advisers who are to accompany him will play important roles. He has been known primarily as leader of a student-worker group--considered political gangsters--who cooperated with Castro's guerrillas to overthrow Batista. Chaumont is believed to have allowed the Communists to use

his now practically defunct Revolutionary Directorate as a front, and in 1959 he was sent by Castro to Communist China, Czechoslovakia, and other countries "to make friends for the Cuban revolution."

[redacted] announcement on 17 May of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia at embassy level rather than [redacted]

A Cuban radio station said on 7 May that a Czech mission had arrived in Havana to conclude a trade agreement. On the same day, a staff member of the Cuban Communist party newspaper reportedly said that relations with Communist China would be established in due course.

Cuba's oldest newspaper, the strongly anti-Communist, Catholic-supported *Diario de la Marina*, which has fought an out-spoken but losing battle against growing Communist influence in Cuba, was seized on 11 May by unions of its workers after it had published a particularly strong antiregime editorial. This leaves only one paper which still speaks critically of the government and two "independent" dailies which remain out of government

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[redacted] OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

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PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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control by remaining silent on internal political issues.

The takeover of the newspaper will further discourage domestic opposition groups. Leaders of the Christian Democratic Movement, formed in late 1959 in hopes of solidifying Catholics and other anti-Communists into an overt political opposition, have either fled or are intimidated by the govern-

ment's growing repression. The chiefs of two parties which had supported Castro until recently told Venezuelan President Betancourt that they do not believe Castro can be overthrown either by an internal uprising or an invasion from abroad. Therefore they plan to press for elections, although the government has already ordered their groups to disband and join the 26th of July Movement. BET

