

DELETED TEXT
NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS

CUBA

Cuba's recent cabinet changes are aimed at organizing the economy more efficiently and paving the way for an announced one-billion-dollar five-year industrialization program. Plans announced on 24 February for the creation of three new ministries and the reorganization of other economic administrative bodies were reportedly fashioned by Cuban and Czech technicians in Prague. The new economic order conforms closely to the Com-

munist pattern for state control of the economy. The National Bank of Cuba, now to be headed by former Commerce Minister Cepero Bonilla, will issue all currency and function as the government's fiscal agent in all domestic and international financial affairs.

Che Guevara, former president of the National Bank and now chief of the new Ministry of Industry, has apparently strengthened his position as

Cuba's chief economic administrator, since the national petroleum and mining institutes and the sugar mills have been transferred to his ministry. The 27 February attempt on his life--evidently the second such attempt within the last four months--underlines the importance with which anti-Castro elements regard him.

In an apparent change of tactics toward other Latin American governments, the Castro regime delivered a lengthy letter on 24 February to the remaining Latin American diplomatic missions in Havana insisting that Cuba harbors no intentions of exporting its revolution. Reiterating the familiar charges that the United States plans aggression against Cuba, the letter reportedly implied Castro's approval of the current Ecuadorean proposal for joint Latin American mediation of US-Cuban differences.

The note followed by only 12 days Castro's speech alleging US aid to anti-Castro elements and claiming Cuba's right to spread its revolution abroad. Cuba probably hopes to reduce the possibility of solid Latin American support for collective action against it.

The "first regional Latin American plantation workers' conference" in Havana, scheduled to begin on 3 March, is attracting delegates from other Latin American Communist parties and Communist-front organizations as well as observers from Soviet bloc countries.

Anti-Castro forces are continuing their activities throughout Cuba, despite government claims that major resistance centers have been, or are about to be, eliminated. Government forces have claimed the capture of about 900 rebels in the Sierra Escambray area, where Havana previously estimated

that fewer than 1,000 counter-revolutionaries were concentrated. Reports of new engagements with guerrillas indicate, however, that considerable numbers remain at large.

skirmishes have taken place in Oriente, Matanzas, and Camaguey provinces, possibly in attempts to relieve some of the pressure on opposition forces in the Escambray area.

the opposition forces in the Escambray Mountains had been converted into a "respectable fighting contingent" through the inclusion of "many persons discharged from the armed forces." individual acts of sabotage seemed to have decreased as a result of government repression, but as a reaction to the atmosphere of unrest thus created, the defections and conspiracies continue, provoking the undisguised irritation of government leaders."

Unconfirmed reports of escapes and defections of prominent persons are circulating among opposition elements. According to recent press reports, former labor chief David Salvador--an opportunist who turned against Castro and was captured while seeking to leave the island in November 1960--has fled Cuba with a number of followers from his antigovernment "30 November Movement." William Morgan, a former US citizen who was a major in Castro's army before his arrest last October, is also alleged to have escaped. Cubans with contacts in embassies in Havana report that those currently seeking or having recently taken diplomatic asylum include Fidel Castro's elder brother Ramon, and the vitriolic radio commentator Jose Pardo Llada.