

Uruguayan Political Leader
Praises Castro

Victor Haedo, President-designate of Uruguay's National Council of Government for the year beginning March 1961, told a television audience on 24 October that he had gained a favorable impression of Cuba's Fidel Castro during the recent UN General Assembly sessions they both attended. Haedo said he believed Castro's expropriation of "international enterprises" is a justifiable measure. Rounding out his report on the General Assembly, he said he favored the admission of Communist China to the UN.

The American Embassy in Montevideo, noting that Haedo also spoke enthusiastically about his impressions of the United States, concludes that he was trying to provide "something for everyone." He may also have hoped that by presenting a broad view of world problems, he could overcome earlier bad publicity resulting from a series of singularly inept press conferences en route to New York.

Haedo, a professional politician with an unsavory history

of alliances with Nazi, Falangist, and Peronista groups, has been described as "willing to say anything he considers useful and out of the habit of paying any attention to what he says." For the past two years he has been attempting to gain control of the governing National party, which is highly factionalized, and may make an all-out bid when he assumes the presidency next year.

President Benito Nardone in a speech on 29 October strongly denounced Cuban activities in Uruguay; he linked pro-Castro agitation to Soviet bloc embassies and legations in Montevideo. Nardone has been seriously concerned over both Soviet and Cuban activities, but apparently has felt unable to take action because of divisions within his party and the opportunism of the opposition bloc in congress.

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