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LATIN AMERICA

15. Soviet and Czech Technicians Reportedly Supervising Construction Work Near Havana: A good source of the US naval attaché reports that Soviet and Czech personnel are supervising a construction project near Havana. Large caves are reportedly being built on high ground where five private farms have been confiscated for the project. The attaché has absolute confirmation that Czechs, members of a technical mission to Cuba, are housed on small farms in the general area, which is near the Bauta transmitting station. The Czechs have "full work facilities" and may be engaged merely in industrial planning, but are protected by a strong armed guard.

The project may involve installation of conventional anti-aircraft weapons which have recently been unloaded from Soviet ships in Cuban ports. The area mentioned is southwest of Havana about the same distance from the capital as the site of "military construction" by Soviet technicians mentioned in two recent reports. The latter activity was thought to involve anti-aircraft weapons.

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16. Chances for Revolt Against Castro Regime Diminish: The recent summary execution of more than 20 men--including three Americans--for counterrevolutionary activities is a serious blow to the chances of a genuine revolt against the Castro regime, according to qualified American observers in Santiago de Cuba. The "neighborhood" spy system recently threatened by Castro appears to be in effect in eastern Santiago, where the people reacted to last week's executions with silence and fear. In a speech on 15 October, Castro again emphasized charges of US official complicity in all counterrevolutionary activity, said his revolution is moving into its second and less drastic phase, and insisted that "loyal" private interests need not fear nationalization.
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