

The Cuban Foreign Ministry [redacted] [redacted] approval from the North Vietnamese Government for a joint communiqué announcing establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and North Vietnam on the ambassadorial level. Havana suggested that the communiqué be issued on 15 November. North Vietnam has consular posts in Burma, Indonesia, and India, but Guinea is the only nonbloc nation to which a North Vietnamese ambassador is presently accredited. Hanoi will view establishment of its first diplomatic post in the western hemisphere as a major breakthrough in its campaign for greater international acceptance.

Recognition of North Vietnam is a further move by Cuba toward solidarity with the Sino-Soviet bloc. Cuba will then have diplomatic relations with all Sino-Soviet countries except Albania, Mongolia, and East Germany. It has concluded an interbank economic agreement with East Germany, and diplomatic recognition may be imminent. The most recent economic agreement made by Cuba with a bloc country was signed on 25 October with Romania and was the eighth trade and technical assistance agreement concluded this year with a bloc country. Cuban National Bank President Guevara, now on a mission to five bloc countries, is expected to sign a trade agreement with North Korea next month.

Cuban Army Inspector General William Galvez visited Hanoi last May. In September a North Vietnamese party central committee member attending an academic conference in Mexico announced his intention to visit Cuba, but the visit apparently never materialized. [redacted]

[redacted] expressed their desire to send a government delegation to Cuba on a goodwill visit. This group may be on hand when recognition is publicly announced.

North Vietnam may agree to supply small quantities of rice to Cuba under a token trade agreement between the two countries. Cuba previously was considering the purchase of rice from South Vietnam, but probably will switch this order to Hanoi following the establishment of diplomatic relations. A small quantity of North Vietnamese rice has already been shipped to Cuba on Soviet account, and several shipments are being scheduled from Communist China. [redacted]

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--Che Guevara's economic mission has left Cuba for the USSR, Communist China, and other bloc states to arrange for next year's trade with these countries and to further

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integrate Cuba economically with the bloc. Soviet propaganda coverage of the Cuban situation has been stepped up and now includes daily warnings of alleged American plans for "counter-revolutionary invasions," along with denunciations of US trade restrictions.

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