

Cuba-Communist China In the most vindictive attack on the United States of his career, Fidel Castro defiantly announced on 2 September Cuba's intention to establish diplomatic relations with the Peiping regime. In a speech billed as the answer of the "Cuban people" to the OAS warning against accepting Sino-Soviet bloc support, Castro in effect withdrew his country from the inter-American system and from the Western alliance. A staged rally of some 300,000 Cubans gave its endorsement to Castro's acceptance of Chinese, as well as Soviet, military aid "if we are attacked."

Communist China, which has devoted a considerable propaganda effort to Latin America in recent years, has achieved a major diplomatic breakthrough in securing its first diplomatic recognition in the Western Hemisphere. Cuba, with a Chinese community of about 30,000--the largest in Latin America--will be a particularly valuable base for the Chinese Communists in spreading their influence in Latin America.

Castro's announcement follows by four days the signing of a joint statement by Cuba and North Korea in which they agreed to exchange ambassadors "as soon as possible." Cuba will be the first non-bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with Pyongyang. [REDACTED]

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