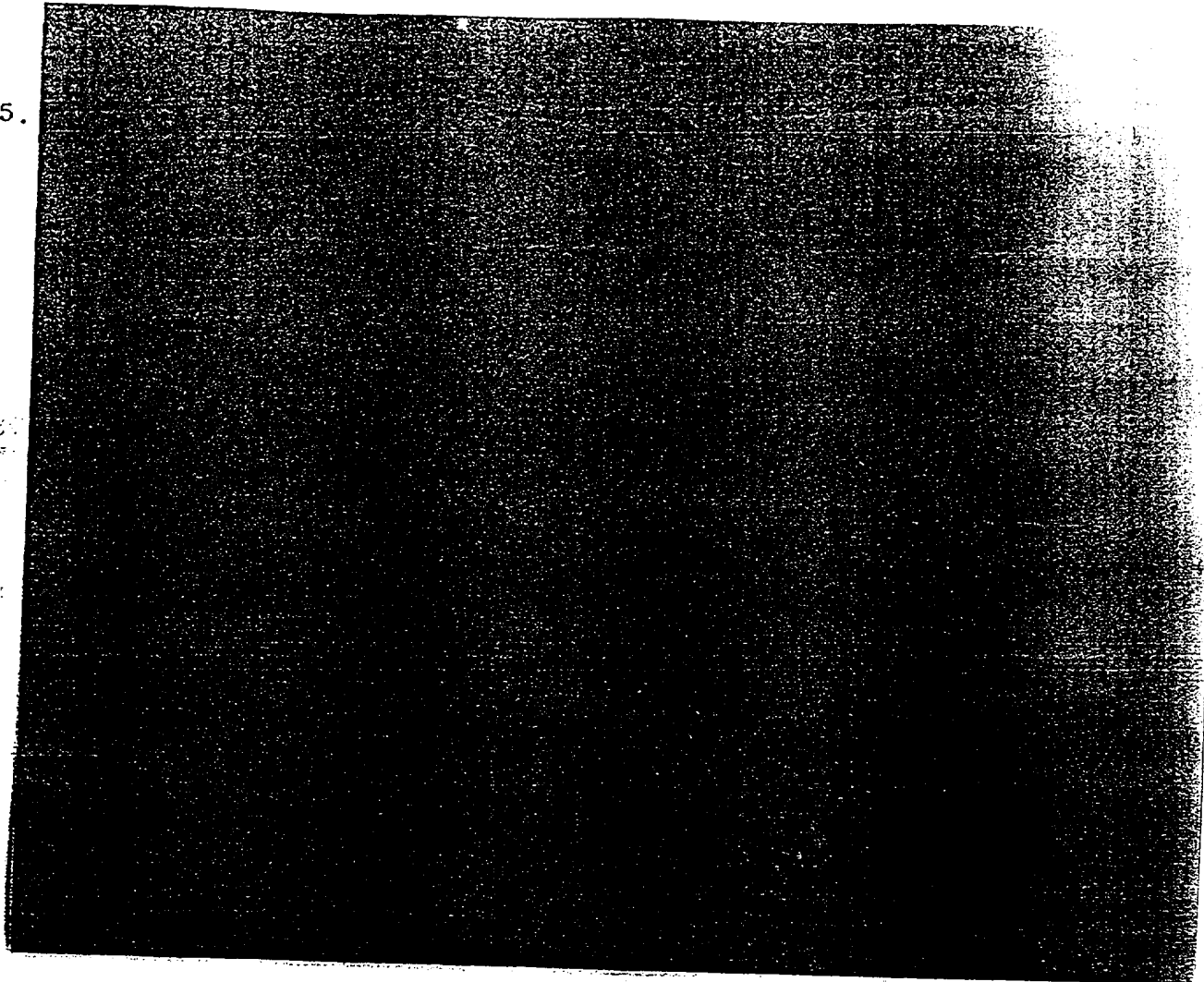


DELETED TEXT
NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS

5.



LATIN AMERICA

6.

Venezuelan-Cuban Relations Continue to Deteriorate: In a speech of 28 July, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, one of Cuba's top political leaders, made a number of disparaging remarks about Venezuelan President Betancourt which will probably intensify the division in Venezuela over the explosive issue of relations with the Cuban Government and could eventually lead to an open rift between the two countries. Referring to the recent fatal shooting by Caracas police of a pro-Cuban propagandist, Guevara termed the incident a murder, and called Betancourt "simply a prisoner of his forces of repression," and of a regime which "claims to be democratic...." Guevara added that "whenever

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Betancourt...decides to ask for help from a sister nation, Cuba is here to teach Venezuela some of the experience it has gained in the revolutionary field."

The pro-Castro Venezuelan foreign minister subsequently announced that an energetic formal protest against Guevara's comments would be presented to Cuba, and Betancourt's Democratic Action party, which has been sympathetic toward the Cuban revolution, also condemned them.

Betancourt is known to be hostile toward Castro but has maintained superficially friendly if cool official relations toward his regime, apparently because of the strong pro-Castro elements in Venezuela, including many of the leaders of the Democratic Republican Union which is a member of the governing coalition. However, Guevara's remarks and the disturbances fomented by pro-Castro groups in Caracas on 22 and 26 July--which brought a warning from the President that the organizations involved might be outlawed--may influence Betancourt to take a firmer stand on the Cuban issue in both foreign policy and domestic politics.

[REDACTED]

7.