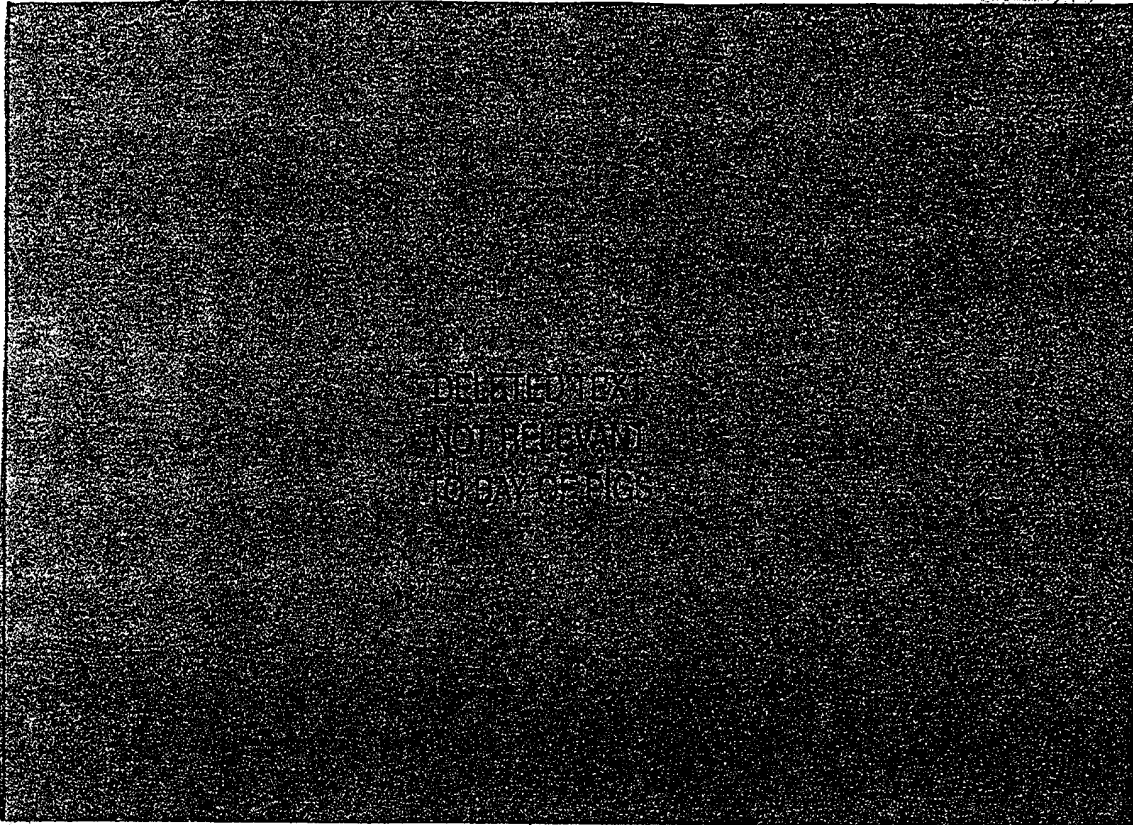


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CUBA AND CENTRAL AMERICA

A joint communiqué issued on 6 December at the end of Che Guevara's six-day visit in North Korea contained an unqualified demand for US withdrawal from the Guantanamo Naval Base. Previous references to US withdrawal from the base by Guevara and other high Cuban officials have been carefully qualified. In the communiqué, Guevara joined the North Koreans in condemning the United States as the "common enemy of the people of

the world and the sworn enemy of the Cuban and Korean peoples." In addition, the Cubans identified themselves with Pyongyang's major policy goals. The two governments also concluded a series of trade, payments, technical-cooperation, and cultural-exchange agreements.

On the departure of his economic mission from Peiping for North Korea on 1 December, Guevara lauded "the world's

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most progressive and finest nation" for its aid and encouragement to the Cuban revolution and referred to the trade protocol and \$60,000,000 Chinese credit to Cuba as examples for other Latin American countries. With regard to Peiping's technical assistance commitments to Cuba, he said 200 Cubans will come to Communist China in the coming year for training in "industrial, agricultural, and other fields," and that Communist Chinese technicians will assist Cuba in building a number of "farm stations" in the next few years.

Cuba's controlled press has praised the Chinese Communist agreements and has stressed the solidarity among nations which have "gained freedom from imperialism" and the proof demonstrated by China's assistance to Cuba that "oppressed peoples everywhere do not stand alone." The Chinese interest-free credit is viewed in Cuba as "a sacrifice and special effort" at a time when China is waging "a gigantic struggle to develop its own economy."

The first six officers of the Chinese Communist Embassy in Havana, who presented their credentials on 30 November, are shortly to be joined by at least 12 more

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and North Vietnam was announced on 2 December following the visit to Hanoi by a member of Guevara's mission. On 5 December part of the mission arrived in Ulan Bator, and establishment of Cuban-Mongolian diplomatic relations was announced on 7 December. Guevara left for Moscow on 7 December to conclude

trade and assistance negotiations begun in early November. The mission is scheduled to visit East Germany before returning to Cuba.

Moves have also been made to strengthen Cuban ties with the Soviet Union. On 1 December, Havana announced the conclusion of an agreement for the exchange of tourists between the USSR and Cuba. Groups of Soviet tourists are to begin arriving in Cuba on 26 December, and Cubans are to be offered inexpensive tours of the Soviet Union beginning next summer. An agreement for the exchange of students and professors was also announced.

The chairman of the Cuban University board announced on 3 December, on his return from ceremonies marking the inauguration of Moscow's Friendship University, that Soviet professors will soon be added to the Cuban faculty. The faculty, drastically purged of anti-Communists, is in need of technically qualified professors.

Soviet economic technicians already in Cuba are the vanguard of some 200 expected under the agreements concluded last February, according to advice by the head of the Soviet technical mission in Cuba to an official of the Netherlands Embassy there. The Soviet official said his government would now have to increase aid to Cuba considerably over that originally contemplated, in view of the "rapid pace of the Cuban revolution" and the unavailability of certain goods normally imported from the United States. The Netherlands official got the impression that Soviet officials are "not entirely happy with the necessity of taking rather drastic measures to prevent the breakdown of the Cuban economy."

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A group of Soviet technicians recently visited the expropriated US-government - owned Nicaro nickel mine and processing plant, according to a Havana broadcast of 1 December. The leader of the group is said to have assured the plant workers of Soviet assistance in solving the "technical problems of the plant."

Cuban diplomatic missions and propaganda agencies in free world countries are being adversely affected by inadequate financial support from Havana, apparently a reflection of Cuba's dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

in Havana because of Paraguay's resistance to accepting a Cuban diplomat in Asuncion. A disaffected officer in the Cuban Foreign Ministry informed the American Embassy on 1 December that Cuban consular offices are thoroughly penetrated by Communists and that newly appointed Cuban consuls in Mexico, Chile, Spain, Jamaica and other places are Communists.

Several other Latin American governments have recently made or plan to make efforts to reduce the threat of Cuban propaganda and subversion in their countries. Argentina closed Prensa Latina's offices on 2 December after the short-lived Peronista rebel attacks on 30 November and after repeated Cuban efforts to introduce subversive propaganda into Argentina through this agency and through its diplomatic mission. Panamanian Interior Minister Robels said on 5 December that he would shortly give the cabinet evidence that would justify declaring the Cuban ambassador persona non grata, according to a usually reliable source.

Meanwhile, Cuba has ordered the immediate departure of the Paraguayan diplomatic mission

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