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## CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS

Cuba's walkout from the OAS foreign ministers' meeting on 28 August further isolates the Castro regime from other hemisphere nations and emphasizes to them that the Cuban Government has rejected the inter-American system in favor of greater dependence on support from the Sino-Soviet bloc. Cuba notified the foreign ministers that it will again charge the US with economic aggression before the UN Security Council. Foreign Minister Roa's speeches at the OAS meeting and subsequent comment by Fidel Castro and Roa and the official Cuban press clearly state that the Castro regime regards itself as the vanguard of the "anti-imperialist" revolution that will eventually sweep Latin America.

The Cuban press and radio have unleashed a torrent of abuse against the OAS, which Radio Mambi, the most virulent, called "a gang of churls, a conclave of lackeys under the orders of the powerful and bestial imperialism." On 30 August, Fidel Castro condemned the foreign ministers as "docile servants of imperialism" who "betrayed" the people of Latin America by siding at the OAS meeting with the "aggressor nation" rather than with the "heroic Cuban people." All the other Latin American governments, he said, are controlled by military and economic oligarchies linked to "imperialism." "Our country," he added, "has had the honor of initiating the American rebellion against the Yankee empire."

The OAS meetings have had serious repercussions on the domestic political scenes in two South American countries. The Presidents of Venezuela and Peru may have a showdown with their foreign ministers for not

following instructions to support a firm resolution against Soviet bloc intervention in the hemisphere.

The resignation of these officials, whose actions and statements at San Jose were unfavorable to the US and largely sympathetic to the Castro regime, could stir serious political reactions in their countries, where pro-Castro groups are promoting unrest. The resignation of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arcaya, whose party has allied itself with other leftists and Communists, in support of Castro, would be a potential threat to President Betancourt's coalition and a pretext for further protest demonstrations.

Moscow signified its intention of continuing strong support for Castro by issuing a statement by Foreign Minister Gromyko strongly denouncing the US for its activities at the OAS meeting. Criticizing Secretary Herter's speech of 25 August, Gromyko claimed that the US objective at the meeting was to gain support for "aggressive policies" toward Cuba by "coinciding charges against the USSR." He challenged the "right" of the US to regard Latin American affairs as its exclusive concern and defended the right of the USSR to take an interest in situations which emerge in other areas of the world.

Bloc commentators have generally assessed the OAS meeting as a defeat for US diplomacy. A widely broadcast Soviet commentary picks up the main point of Gromyko's statement and concludes that the San Jose resolution is "not worth the paper it is written on."

The Castro regime continues to strengthen its contact with

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Page 8 of 15

PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Page 1 of 21

PART III

DISSENTS AND PERSPECTIVES

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

1 September 1960

the Sino-Soviet bloc. The government announced on 29 August that Cuba and North Korea had concluded a cultural exchange agreement, that the two countries had agreed to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level "as soon as possible," and that a Cuban delegation will leave shortly for Pyongyang to negotiate a trade treaty. If Cuba grants diplomatic recognition to the North Korean regime, it will be the first non-bloc country to do so.

review before Fidel Castro on 21 August establishes that Czech semiautomatic 7.26-mm. rifles with attached folding bayonets have been delivered to Cuba. These are the first bloc arms to be positively identified in Cuba; a Cuban radio announcer had declared on 21 August that Czech arms were on hand. There is no reliable indication of the amount of Czech small arms which has been delivered.

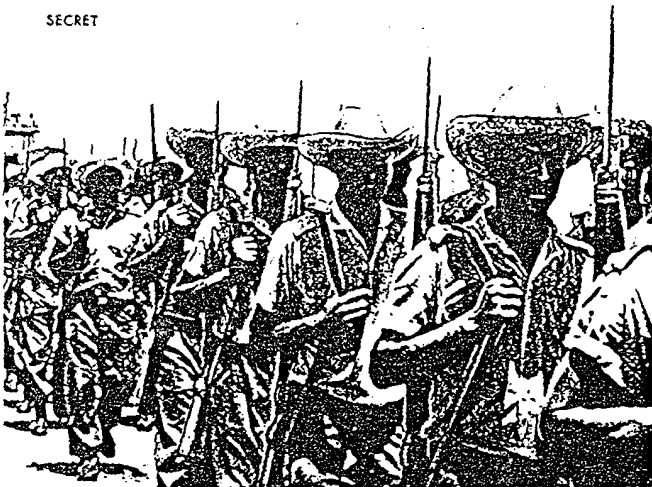
These weapons presumably arrived on board a Soviet merchant ship, possibly the Jean Jaures, which arrived in Cuba on 6 July with four or five helicopters, wheat, and fertilizer. This ship had made a brief call at the Rumanian port of Constanta, where it could have taken on Czech arms brought down the Danube River.

Shipments of major military items, such as jet aircraft, have not yet begun, according to [REDACTED]

The delivery of such military equipment probably will be preceded by training of Cuban military personnel in the bloc. Some military training is now being conducted in Czechoslovakia for perhaps as many as 100 Cubans. A Cubana Airlines plane passed through Geneva on 25 August, reportedly returning Cuban "air cadets" from Prague, where their tour was probably too short to include jet pilot training.

While the bloc may eventually render large-scale military assistance to Cuba, Moscow at the moment is moving cautiously in supplying assistance, probably in order to minimize the

SECRET



CUBAN MILITIA CARRYING CZECH 7.62-MM SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES

Rumania is preparing to establish a Morse press link with the Castro-subsidized Prensa Latina agency, according to [REDACTED]. Such links were established between Havana and Prague and Havana and Moscow last month.

The important Cuban tobacco workers' federation cabled the Trade Union International of Workers of the Food, Tobacco and Beverage Industries in Sofia on 18 August that it had agreed to affiliate with that world Communist labor front.

A photograph taken by a US press correspondent of a militia

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Page 9 of 15

PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Page 1 of 21

PART III

PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES

Page 1 of 15

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

1 September 1960

expected reaction in much of Latin America.

Relations between Cuba and Dr. Cheddi Jagan, leader of British Guiana's Communist-dominated majority party, have been developing rapidly, and Jagan announced in a press conference in Havana on 25 August that Cuba had agreed to furnish his government with a \$5,000,000 loan and technical aid. The British Colonial Office, whose approval will be necessary, assumes the Soviet Union is behind the loan offer--partly because of the easy terms for repayment.

On the domestic front, the drastic purge of naval personnel after the alleged discovery of an antigovernment plot in the navy has apparently been largely concluded. The army and militia units are exercising complete control of naval facilities until leftist Lieutenant Commander Cainas can reorganize the navy to the satisfaction of Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro.

Antigovernment guerrilla activity continues in the mountains of central Cuba. A reliable embassy source reported that he had contacted the

guerrillas between 26 and 28 August and found about 400 to 500 of them divided into several groups, all poorly armed and low on ammunition and food. He reported that new recruits are beginning to trickle in, and dissidents in Havana are reported by other sources to be trying to get supplies to the guerrillas. The guerrillas are reported to believe that, although government efforts against them have thus far been ineffective, they could not withstand a concerted assault for more than a few days.

The government has renewed its charges that "pirate" aircraft are making hostile incursions over Cuban territory, and [REDACTED] at least two incursions by unidentified aircraft occurred on 26 August. It is possible, however, that the flights were engineered by the Cuban Government itself in an effort to arouse Cubans further against the United States. Fidel Castro on 30 August accused "agents of Yankee imperialism" of planning to shoot down Foreign Minister Roa's plane on his return flight from San Jose.

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Page 10 of 15

PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Page 1 of 21

PART III

PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES

Page 1 of 15