

8 September 1960

DECLASSIFIED  
NON-RELEVANT  
FOR SAO OFFICE

CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS

Fidel Castro in effect withdrew Cuba from the inter-American system in a 2 September speech that featured the announcement of his intention to establish diplomatic relations with Communist China and to accept Chinese Communist, as well as Soviet, military aid "if we are attacked."

Cuba's recognition of the Peiping regime, the first by a western hemisphere nation, is a major diplomatic breakthrough for Communist China. Peiping has intensified its propaganda toward Latin America in recent years and has expressed special admiration for the Cuban revolution, which it holds up as a model for other Latin American countries in their "struggle against American imperialism." Mao Tse-tung has remarked privately that he liked "the way Castro conducts himself," and

Chou En-lai on 15 August pledged "every possible aid, with no strings attached" to "the Cuban people."

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 promoting their influence in Latin America. The Chinese Communists have for some time been using the Havana office of the New China News Agency as a propaganda outlet and will probably use their embassy facilities as a channel for covert guidance and financial assistance to Communist movements throughout Latin America. The head of Cuba's Prensa Latina cabled Peiping on 3 September hailing Cuba's recognition with: "The glorious day has arrived."

On 29 August Cuba became the first nonbloc nation to

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recognize North Korea, and an exchange of ambassadors is expected soon.

the appointment of a Hungarian diplomat already in Havana as minister to Cuba. A Hungarian trade mission arrived in Cuba on 3 September, and trade and cultural agreements will probably be signed. On 29 August, the head of the Communist-influenced Cuban petroleum workers' union cabled his Soviet and Chinese Communist counterparts and the Communist-front International Union of Petroleum Syndicates in Budapest inviting representatives to a congress of the Cuban union beginning on 30 September.

At the 2 September rally of some 300,000 persons staged by the government to give the answer of "the Cuban people" to the OAS warning against accepting Sino-Soviet bloc support, Castro reiterated Cuba's acceptance of Soviet military aid in the "Declaration of Havana," a ten-point manifesto read to, and dutifully approved by, the crowd. Castro said the manifesto, which also bitterly attacked the "open and criminal intervention which the US has exercised over Latin America for 199 years," would be submitted to "all revolutionary groups and men in America" for support. On 6 September, a Cuban spokesman said the regime had requested support for the declaration from labor, agrarian, student, women's, and professional groups all over the world.

In the same speech Castro denounced the US-Cuban mutual defense assistance treaty of 1952 and threatened to reply to new US "economic aggression" by nationalizing all remaining American-owned property. He

repeated earlier statements that Cuba will never attack the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, but added that if "aggression" against Cuba continues, a new "assembly of the Cuban people" will be called to demand that the United States withdraw from the base.

Cuba's relations with most other Latin American nations have been further strained by its accusations of a "shameful surrender" to US pressure at the San Jose foreign ministers' meeting and by the invective employed by Cuban Foreign Minister Roa toward them. Roa rejected Argentine and Brazilian protests in sharp notes to the ambassadors on 5 September. This has raised the possibility of an Argentine break in diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Peruvian President Prado has agreed, under pressure from the military, to break relations with Cuba at a propitious time. Venezuelan President Betancourt has become increasingly hostile toward Castro, while Colombia, incensed by a recent outburst by the Cuban ambassador, is expected at least to declare the ambassador persona non grata. Nicaragua and Guatemala broke diplomatic relations with the Castro regime earlier this year.

Cuba's poor relations with other hemisphere governments are accompanied by frank appeals for support from the Latin American people over the heads of their governments. While Cuban leaders publicly deny charges that they are trying to export their revolution, they publicly welcome all Latin Americans who want to come "to drink at the pure clear spring" of revolution in Cuba, and Roa claims that he was speaking for "the peoples of Latin America" at the San Jose meeting.

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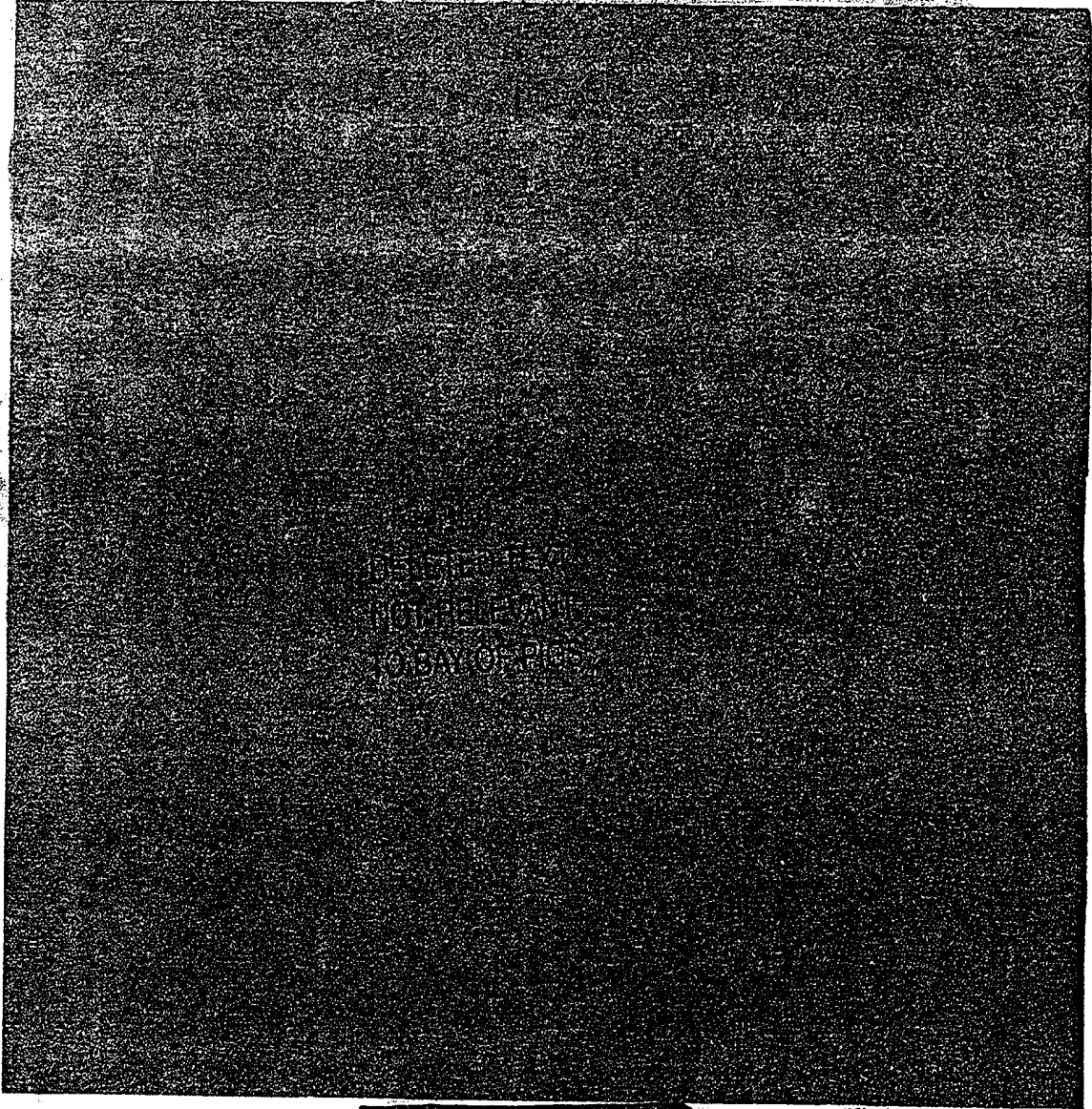

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Meanwhile, there is continuing evidence of increasing antigovernment guerrilla activity in the mountains of central Cuba. Embassy sources reported on 2 September that at least one shipment of arms and ammunition had been sent to the guerrillas during the

previous week. More recruits are reported to be joining the guerrillas, and new "fronts" may be opened elsewhere in the country.



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