

1. Sino-Cuban Trade Missions Arranged: Chinese Communist and Cuban officials have agreed to exchange missions to discuss trade possibilities, according to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] indicated that Peiping would like to hold preliminary talks in London to determine the type and size of the missions, but was prepared to accept Cuban suggestions.

The Chinese, believing that Cuba offers the best opportunity for the spread of Communist influence in Latin America, have been seeking to expand contacts there at all levels. Peiping is sending a theatrical group to Havana in June and is prepared to receive a delegation of Cuban labor leaders at the coming meeting of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions in Peiping.

Peiping bought 80,000 tons of Cuban sugar on 24 March for delivery in April-May 1960, bringing total Chinese sugar imports from Cuba this year to 130,000 tons. China had made only one major sugar purchase directly from Cuba prior to 1959--a 50,000-ton order in 1958. Chinese sugar imports fluctuate annually; the largest imports from the free world occurred in 1958, when Peiping took some 200,000 tons. For political reasons, purchases apparently are being concentrated in Cuba this year. The Sino-Soviet bloc--chiefly the USSR--has already contracted to import 1,300,000 tons of Cuban sugar in 1960--about 800,000 tons more than in any previous year.

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NOT RELEVANT

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