

GENERAL

1997

Increased Soviet Press Attention to Cuba: An Izvestia article recently characterized the Castro movement not as a usual Latin American revolution but a "national liberation movement" in which the working class and laboring peasantry "took the most active role." The application of this terminology specifically to Cuba implies that Moscow has put its ideological stamp of approval on the Castro regime. The October issue of the Soviet journal International Affairs had called Perez Jimenez' overthrow in Venezuela, as well as that of Batista in Cuba, a "turning point" marking the emergence of a "new stage in the national liberation struggle in Latin America."

On 4 December, Pravda published a lengthy article by Cuban Communist party leader Escalante in which he described the Castro regime as a "people's government" not controlled by the working class but subject to great influence by the "proletariat and the peasantry." He charged the US with threatening to reduce sugar imports, obstruct trade in general, and restrict tourism as a means of bringing pressure on the Cuban Government to submit to the interests of the "US monopolists." Escalante concluded by advocating that diplomatic relations be resumed between Cuba and the "socialist camp," particularly with the USSR and Communist China. Moscow's publication of these remarks is probably intended to indicate its receptivity to any Cuban overtures to resume diplomatic relations.

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NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS