NSC BRIEFING

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE AS SANITIZED 1997

15 March 1960

- I. Cuba becoming a center for Latin American Communist activities.
 - A. Hemispheric "peace" conference planned for Havana in May or June.
 - 1. Representatives of seven LA affiliates of World Peace
 Council met in Havana last week to prepare for conference.
 - 2. A visiting Soviet "jurist" and a French woman member of WPC also attended preparatory session.
 - 3. Details of preparatory meeting reported immediately by New China News Agency (Chinese Communist), which has branch offices in Havana.
 - B. Conference would implement one of plans developed by representatives of LA Communist parties at clandestine sessions in Moscow at time of 21st CPSU Congress in early 1959.
 - 1. At Moscow meetings, Communists agreed to strengthen "peace"

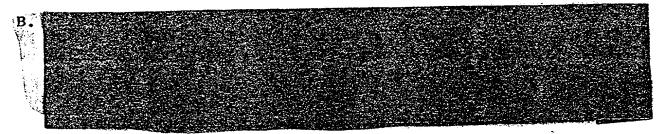
 **POPAGANOA*

 movement, launch attacks on US missions and bases, and call
 a continental peace conference by mid-1960.
 - Peace conference could serve as vehicle to promote some of objectives of a "people's congress," also planned in Moscow in early 1959.
 - C. Popular Socialist party (Communist) of Cuba held plenary session beginning 29 February, which other LA Communist leaders attended.
 - 1. Scheduled 8th PSP congress for 14 July; last congress was in 1952.





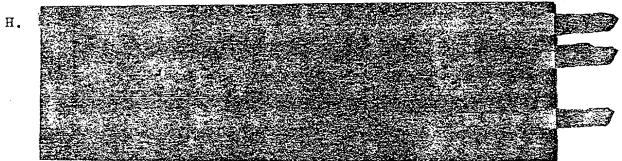
- D. PSP giving open support to "week of solidarity with the struggles of the LA peoples," 20-27 March, called by Communist-infiltrated Cuban Labor Confederation.
- E. "Casa de las Americas" in Cuba, run by pro-Communist wife of education minister, is promoting "friends of Cuba" societies in most other LA countries.
 - Societies are, in effect, Communist fronts. Active in propaganda, "cultural" affairs.
- II. Sino-Soviet bloc continues active support for Castro.
 - A. Sino-Soviet propaganda repeating Castro's anti-US charges.



- C. Representatives of Polish foreign trade organization reported by US Embassy, Warsaw to be departing soon for Cuba to discuss supplying foundry and rolling mill installations and other capital goods.
 - Polish press reports recent purchase of 50,000 tons Cuban sugar and that Cuba wants Polish "investment goods" in exchange.
 - 2. East Germans and Czechs already active commercially in Cuba.



- G. Cubans invited Soviet performers to "First International Ballet Festival," 15-26 March.
 - 1. Cubans providing lodging, meals, \$1000 expense money.



- III. Haside Caba, Officially-inspired anti-US frenzy continues.
 - A. Union of Guantanamo base workers issued statement 14 March criticizing working conditions on base and alleged abuses of US military personnel.
 - 1. Volume of rumors of Cuban intention to provoke an incident at base has markedly increased in last 10 days and may presage formal demand for US evacuation.



- B. Civilian militia and "youth brigades" continue being organized.
 - describing organization of youth brigades, for 13-18 age group, says: "They will be soldiers, with and without arms. They will learn guerrilla warfare. They will assist the agrarian reform institute. They will learn farm work and other activities."
- report on "the obstacles placed by US diplomatic representative in the purchase of the arms loaded on the La Coubre."

 1. Cubans seeking "proof" of Castro's charges.
- D. Castro is using Cuban diplomatic posts in many countries, notably Bern, Lisbon and Latin American capitals, to distribute violently anti-US propaganda.
 - 1. Official notes to other diplomatic missions as well as public handouts are issued.
 - 2. In Guatemala, Cuban ambassador has started placing ads in Guatemalan newspapers attacking Sec'y Herter and US policy in Latin America.