

~~SECRET~~
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997

2 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSC Briefing, 1 August 1960

1. The following topics were prepared:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. Cuba
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]

2. The Director presented all topics substantially as prepared with the exception of [REDACTED] which was somewhat curtailed.

3. The President was not in attendance during the briefing.

/s/
JOHN DYER

CUBA

Recent reports

I. Several observers have recently cast doubt on state of Castro's health and even on his position in regime. *raise question whether ill or the presence of*

A. Argentine ambassador who ^{*found of Castro*} talked with Castro 23 July told ^{*who using*} Ambassador Bonsal that he believes Castro is ^{*illness*} "a doomed man" and ^{*let's both sick + humiliated + humiliated*} situation in Cuba "hastening to tragic outcome" with Castro the victim. *Said he thought he had seen Castro in last trip.*

1. ~~Long close to Castro, and highly regarded by Bonsal, the Argentine found Castro looking sick and depressed.~~
2. ~~He felt Castro was unable to speak freely to him because of presence of pro-Communist acting foreign minister and later of Guevara.~~ *after days*

B. Former President Prio who talked 3 hours with Castro 15 July commented to CIA source that Castro appeared very nervous, conversation disjointed, showed lapses in memory.

C. During speech at 26 July rally, Castro appeared to embassy personnel watching on TV to be in poor physical shape and tired in spirit.

D. Raul Castro's return ^{*cutting short by for days his stay in Cairo after*} a few days ahead of schedule from 5-week mission to Prague, Moscow, and Cairo has given rise to rumors in Havana that Fidel will ^{*temporary relief*} resign in his favor.

II. Regime faces major problems in a number of areas.

A. Though no evidence serious nationwide POL shortage, ~~_____~~ major airbases under orders to submit daily fuel stock reports.

1. Naval base at Mariel, near Havana, reported ~~_____~~ its fuel was exhausted and 1,500 gallons gasoline urgently needed. ~~_____~~

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2. [REDACTED], another naval post and army HQ in Oriente province also reported urgent need more fuels.

B. [REDACTED] numerous arrest orders for "counterrevolutionaries" and investigations of acts of sabotage.

1. Early on 27 July, 2 small bombs exploded in Havana.

2. [REDACTED] naval elements to expect landings of arms on south coast.

C. A CIA source reports that government is aware of conspiracy in army and will round up plotters at time it can capture largest number of them.

D. Latest defector is Cuban Ambassador to Inter-American Economic and Social Council and alternate representative to OAS, Enrique Perez Cisneros, who resigned 22 July.

E. Cuba has announced indefinite postponement of Conference of "Hungry Nations" of Asia, Africa, Latin America, which it had hoped to convene in Havana next September.

1. Foreign Minister Roa said 27 July that postponement necessitated by "recent revival cold war"; real reason was lack of interest in other countries who suspected Cuban motives.

III. Communist-dominated Latin American Youth Congress began sessions in Havana 29 July.

A. Cubans claim 800 delegates present from all Latin American countries, plus Puerto Rico and US, many of whom were furnished free transportation to Cuba.

B. Delegates also present from most Sino-Soviet bloc countries.

C. Communist domination of congress has met some resistance.

1. Venezuelan Christian democratic youth group withdrew when congress leaders refused to guarantee free and public debate.
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
2. Leading youth groups of Peru, Bolivia, Chile, boycotted congress and others that went may walk out.

IV. Prominent Communists and pro-Communists from other Latin American countries frequently visit Cuba; some live there.

A. Ex-President Arbenz of Guatemala was present at 26 July rally.

B. Former Guatemalan Communist leader Fortuny has been in Cuba since May.

C. Mexican Communist labor leader Lombardo Toledano is frequent visitor.

D. Beside Guevara, leftist Argentines resident in Cuba include Peron's former ministers of interior and foreign affairs, and Peronista party boss Juan Cooke. Jose Massetti, director of Castro's Prensa Latina, was an editor of Peron's similar Agencia Latina.

E. Other Communist exiles in Cuba include Nicaraguans, Dominicans, and Haitians.

V. Soviet, Czech technicians continue to arrive in Cuba.

A. At least 140 Russians and 25 Czechs have arrived since February.

1. But some have apparently remained only a short time.

B. A Russian metallurgist specializing in nickel and cobalt visited mine and processing plant of ^{Freeport-Sulphur} ~~US mining concern~~ at Moa Bay in June.

1. He was given tour of plant and copied name-plate data from equipment several times, after asking permission.

2. Other sources report that Poles, and apparently also Chinese Communists, recently inquired as to availability of nickel which is produced only at Moa Bay and US Government-owned Nicaro plant. Negotiations are to begin shortly for Cuban purchase Nicaro installations.

[REDACTED]