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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997

12 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NBC Briefing, 12 August 1960

1. The following briefings were prepared:

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

2. [REDACTED]

He then dealt briefly with that portion of the Cuban paper concerned with Castro's attack on the church

DELETED TEXT
NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS

WILLIAM A. HERBERT Jr.

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NSC BRIEFING

11 August 1960

CUBA - [REDACTED]

- I. Fidel Castro's 6-7 August tirade against US was most intense to date and 7 August decree confiscating more American properties was regime's most provocative anti-US act.
 - A. American properties nationalized are worth estimated total \$700,000,000.
 1. Mining companies (including Moa Bay, Nicaro), banks, airlines, and smaller companies still in American hands, but establishment of government mineral institute 9 August may presage seizure of mines.
 2. Physical seizure of nationalized plants clearly pre-arranged and carried out immediately. Manager of one company found one of his office boys heading militia unit controlling company's offices.
 3. Foreign Minister Roa called decree a "Document of economic independence for all Latin America."
 4. Former Guatemalan President Arbenz, on speaker's stand when Castro read decree, got up and embraced him.
 - B. These extreme provocations suggest regime may even be trying to provoke US military intervention in belief it would enhance prospects for Latin American revolution against "US imperialism."
- II. Serious church-state conflict may be shaping up after 7 August pastoral letter sharply attacking Communist influence in government

- A. But usually reliable source reports some members Catholic hierarchy strongly oppose any church activity that could be construed as political, including aid to anti-Communist manifestations.
- B. Usually reliable source reports police at first refused to respond to clergy's call to protect churchgoers against threatening pro-Castro mobs on 9 August.
 - 1. Police claimed they had orders not to interfere with "people who were chastizing "counterrevolutionaries."
 - 2. Archbishop then called President Dorticos, who sent police chief who on arrival berated clergy for "provocation" of pastoral letter.
- C. Issue likely to have strong impact Cuban public as well hemisphere opinion, particularly if continued outbreaks force archbishop to carry out threat to close all churches, charging government inability to guarantee freedom of worship.

*Attach
Church
ID.
every
J.P. a good
friend
Chavez*

III. Defection of Raul Chibas, former enthusiastic Castro supporter, on 2 August another blow to Castro.

- A. Chibas headed one of 2 major anti-Batista parties prior Castro's victory and was brother of party's late founder, one of Fidel's early heroes.

IV. Moscow is now evidently preparing to deliver military aid to Castro regime.

- A. Two officials from Soviet Chief Engineering Directorate-- Moscow's organization handling supply of arms and military equipment to foreign countries--were in Havana last week.

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1. Their task probably was to work out specific arrangements for future military deliveries.
- B. Similar arrangements between Czechoslovakia and Cuba apparently were concluded earlier this year.
 1. Group of Cuban military students are believed to be in Prague for training.
- C. Trade relations with Communist China may have begun on sour note.
 1. Cuban importers told embassy that samples Chinese rice are very poor quality and government committed to buy large quantity.
 2. Importers plan protest on basis consumer resistance but expect no satisfaction.
 3. They foresee rice shortage in very near future.
- V. Latin American Youth Congress, closed 7 August, to be followed by other Communist and Communist front gatherings.
 - A. "Volunteers" from number countries, including most Sino-Soviet bloc countries, remaining to work on "school city."
 - B. Cuban Communists' Popular Socialist party inviting foreign delegates for its 8th party congress (last one was in 1952). Had been scheduled for July, now apparently 16 August.
 1. Usually reliable source reports Mikhail Suslov, Duclos, Togliatti and others have been invited.
 - C. Congress of Communist parties of underdeveloped countries reportedly to be held in Cuba later this year.

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