

CUBA

- I. Eighth national congress of Cuban Communists' Popular Socialist party opened 16 August. Also celebrating party's 35th anniversary.
- A. First since 1952, congress had been set for last month but apparently rescheduled to coincide with OAS meeting.
1. Presence foreign Communists suggests major effort to demonstrate international Communist solidarity with Castro regime.
 2. But presence foreigners likely to further arouse other LA governments against Soviet intervention in this hemisphere.
- B. Most Sino-Soviet bloc countries sent relatively high-level delegates.
1. Communist China, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, sent members of their party central committees; North Korea, Hungary also sent delegates. Paul Verner, candidate member of East German politburo, is highest ranking bloc delegate.
 2. Cuban party reported by usually reliable source to have invited Suslov, but CPSU said his attendance "inconvenient." Cubans urged reconsideration.
 - a. Soviet party may be represented by diplomatic personnel already in Havana, none of whom are known to have high party status.
 3. French, Italian parties represented by Jacques Duclos and Velio Spano, latter a member Italian party central committee.

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1997



4. Most LA parties probably also represented.

C. Gathering will be further opportunity for international Communist liaison and for preparation plans for further use of Cuba as base for LA operations.

II. Ties with Sino-Soviet bloc continue to be strengthened.

A. At least 10 Soviet embassy officers and families arrived 13 August. Ambassador Kudryavtsev--who first set up Soviet atomic spy ring in Canada during World War II--^{arrived} ~~due~~ yesterday.

B. Khrushchev sent message to Castro on 34th birthday praising him as "fighter for liberty" and expressing hope for "even stronger" Soviet-Cuban relations.

C. In replying to Khrushchev's earlier letter congratulating Castro on 26 July anniversary, Castro said: "This sympathy (of yours) puts us under still greater obligation to follow the path we have chosen...the breaking of the chain of imperialist oppression is of tremendous significance for peoples of LA and for all oppressed peoples of the world." Soviet solidarity is "unquestionable proof that the peoples fighting for independence are not alone."

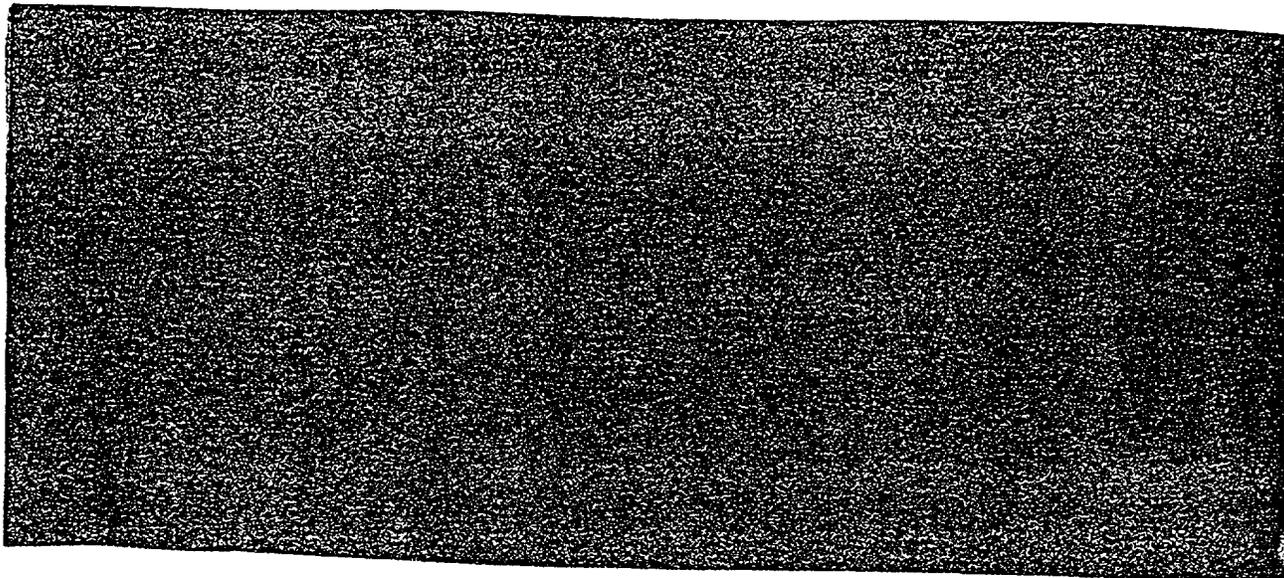
D. Nine Cuban labor leaders, including powerful non-Communist head of sugar workers federation, to leave shortly for Soviet trips; two others going to Bulgaria.

III. On day before seizure Moa Bay plant on 14 August, Cuban police seized accounting records of Nicaro--US government-owned nickel corporation--from two Cuban employees carrying records to Havana for photostating prior shipment to Washington.



[REDACTED]

A.



B.

IV. A Latin American ambassador in Havana who has good contacts in "Che" Guevara's National Bank reports that bank has sent large sums to various other LA countries to bribe delegates to OAS meeting.

A. Money may be some of the \$8,000,000 in US currency (\$100 and \$50 bills) that Cubans have been importing from US regularly since May.

V. Indications of internal unrest continue to mount.

A. [REDACTED] heightened alert and renewed minor skirmishes with guerrilla bands in mountains.

B. Arrest on 16 August of a number of naval personnel reveals dissidence in navy, where Raul Castro's control has been weaker than in army or air force.

1. Fidel Castro personally led one army detachment against a naval base just outside Havana.