

LATIN AMERICA

10. Cuban Government Planning Further Drastic State Controls: The Castro government is planning to establish a National Institute of Urban Reform early next month, according to a fairly reliable Cuban business source with high government contacts.

Although the urban reform decree is apparently only in preliminary draft, the source's description of its basic aspects suggests that it may parallel, in the urban real estate field, the methods and principles of Castro's drastic agrarian reform law. The new institute is apparently to be empowered to expropriate certain urban lots. Owners are to be paid in 20-year bonds and expropriated houses sold on the basis of "popular need" with present renters having priority. Heavy migration to the cities and inflated urban real estate values in Cuba, as elsewhere in Latin America, have led to serious housing problems. The new institute will probably be used by the regime as another mechanism of increasing its control over Cuba's economic and political life.

The agrarian reform institute (INRA) and its department of industrial development are continuing their programs. Significant acreages of sugar-cane land were seized this week for the first time when a Cuban-owned as well as an American-owned company was affected. INRA's executive director, suspected Communist Antonio Nunez Jimenez, declared on 12 January that "all large cattle ranches in Cuba now represent free land belonging to INRA and in a few days all large sugar plantations will also come under INRA's control." Revolucion, considered the press spokesman of the Castro regime, editorialized on 14 January that 1960 will be "even more notable as the year of agrarian reform than was 1959."

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11. Extensive Publicity Planned for Soviet Exposition in Cuba: The chief of public relations of the Cuban Ministry of Public Works told an associate on 11 January that the Cuban Government had appointed him to advise Soviet officials on an extensive publicity campaign for the Soviet Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Exposition which is scheduled to open in Havana on or about 31 January. The publicity is to be financed by the Soviet Union and is to include a special



supplement of the newspaper Revolucion, which is considered the press spokesman for the Castro regime. Advertisements are also to appear in other newspapers and magazines as well as on radio and billboards. The exposition, which had a 24-day stand in Mexico following its New York City engagement last summer, is expected to remain in Cuba through the month of February.

A usually reliable source has reported that the Soviet Union also plans numerous cultural events in Cuba during the period of the exposition. Aram Khachaturian, Leonid Kogan, and other musicians are reportedly scheduled to appear there following engagements in Mexico, and representatives of the Soviet film industry are also expected in Cuba.

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DELETED TEXT  
NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS