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TO BAY OF PIGS

LATIN AMERICA

13. Cuba Gets Little Official Support for Proposed "Hungry Nations" Conference: Fidel Castro appears to be winning no official Latin American backing for a conference in Havana next summer of "underindustrialized" nations. The proposed conference, mainly a Cuban bid for leadership among neutralist countries with which it now identifies itself, has aroused suspicion in many Latin American capitals. No Latin American government has responded favorably to the Cuban invitations; Brazil has announced its intention not to attend; and a high Brazilian Foreign Ministry official says Chile and Argentina have agreed to decline. Even the Betancourt regime in Venezuela, which materially supported Castro in his struggle for power, is becoming increasingly apprehensive of developments in Cuba. It has refused to co-sponsor the conference and may even refuse to attend.

Castro emissaries promoting the conference in Africa and Asia have elicited expressions of interest from several governments, but others have indicated lack of interest. The UAR, which Cuban leaders regard as a sympathetic ally, is concerned over Cuba's political motives.

While the failure of many of the invited governments to be represented at the proposed conference would be a severe blow to Castro's prestige at home and abroad, he may substitute a meeting of unofficial delegations from various nations. Such a conference could easily be used by Castro for propaganda against the United States and could be exploited by the Communists.

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