

LATIN AMERICA

11. Castro Evidently Planning Return to UN General Assembly:
Fidel Castro's experience at the United Nations late last month has apparently strengthened his view of himself as a leader of the people, not only of Latin America, but of all underdeveloped countries in their "struggle against imperialism." Upon his departure from New York on 28 September he said he would return in a few weeks.

Castro's UN address on 26 September evidently struck a responsive chord among the delegations of some of the new African states, and the Cuban-proposed agenda item on land reform will provide another occasion for Cuba to pose as the champion of the underdeveloped nations. Castro told a Cuban television audience on 30 September that "we are thinking of presenting a motion in the United Nations against racial segregation in the United States." In a further effort to identify his regime with world neutralist leaders, Castro declared on his return to Cuba that Nkrumah may visit Cuba late this year and Nasir next March.

The Castro regime, which is giving increasing propaganda support to the cause of the Algerian rebels, is apparently to act as host later this month for a conference sponsored by the "Algerian Aid Committee" based in Morocco. The committee member representing the Communists' World Federation of Trade Unions had urged Havana as the site of the conference.

Cuba's withdrawal on 4 October of its candidacy for a UN Security Council seat, which it had little hope of winning, may have been in return for a promise by some Latin American delegations for support for a council seat next year.

Meanwhile, the Catholic archbishop of Santiago, in Oriente Province, issued a pastoral letter on 2 October constituting the strongest anti-Communist statement yet made by any church official in Cuba. Although the church is weak in Cuba generally, its prestige in Oriente is greater than elsewhere on the island because of the firm anti-Batista stand taken by many churchmen in that province during Castro's war against the Batista dictatorship. The archbishop himself is credited with saving Castro's life in 1953 after he had been captured by the Batista forces.

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