

DELETED TEXT  
NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS

LATIN AMERICA

14. Large Bloc Arms Delivery to Cuba: The Soviet cargo ship Ilya Mechnikov, which arrived at Havana on 8 September with the bloc's first major arms shipment to Cuba, apparently delivered medium tanks and antiaircraft artillery, along with a variety of other materiel. Detailed reports from observers, one of whom was actually aboard the ship, state that 10 tanks --apparently T-34s--and 100 antiaircraft guns were delivered. The 4,000-ton cargo reportedly also included machine guns, artillery, and small-arms ammunition, as well as radar and electronics equipment. Some of the arms evidently are of Czech origin.

Although other reports on the unloading suggest that jet aircraft also were delivered, photographs taken shortly after the ship's arrival at Havana and other more detailed reports of the cargo do not indicate the inclusion of jet aircraft in this shipment.

15. Cuban Government Attempting to Rout Guerrillas: Government forces are apparently making a major effort to rout anti-Castro guerrilla bands from the Escambray Mountains of central Cuba. At least 40 of Castro's militiamen and one regular army officer have reportedly been killed in this area already this month. The guerrillas are estimated to total several hundred, but are divided into several factions. The leader of an anti-Castro group believes, however, that the various bands, which he numbers at 14, may be unified shortly. In late August, the guerrillas were reported poorly armed, but they may by this time have received additional weapons smuggled to them by opposition groups in Havana and other cities. On

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1997

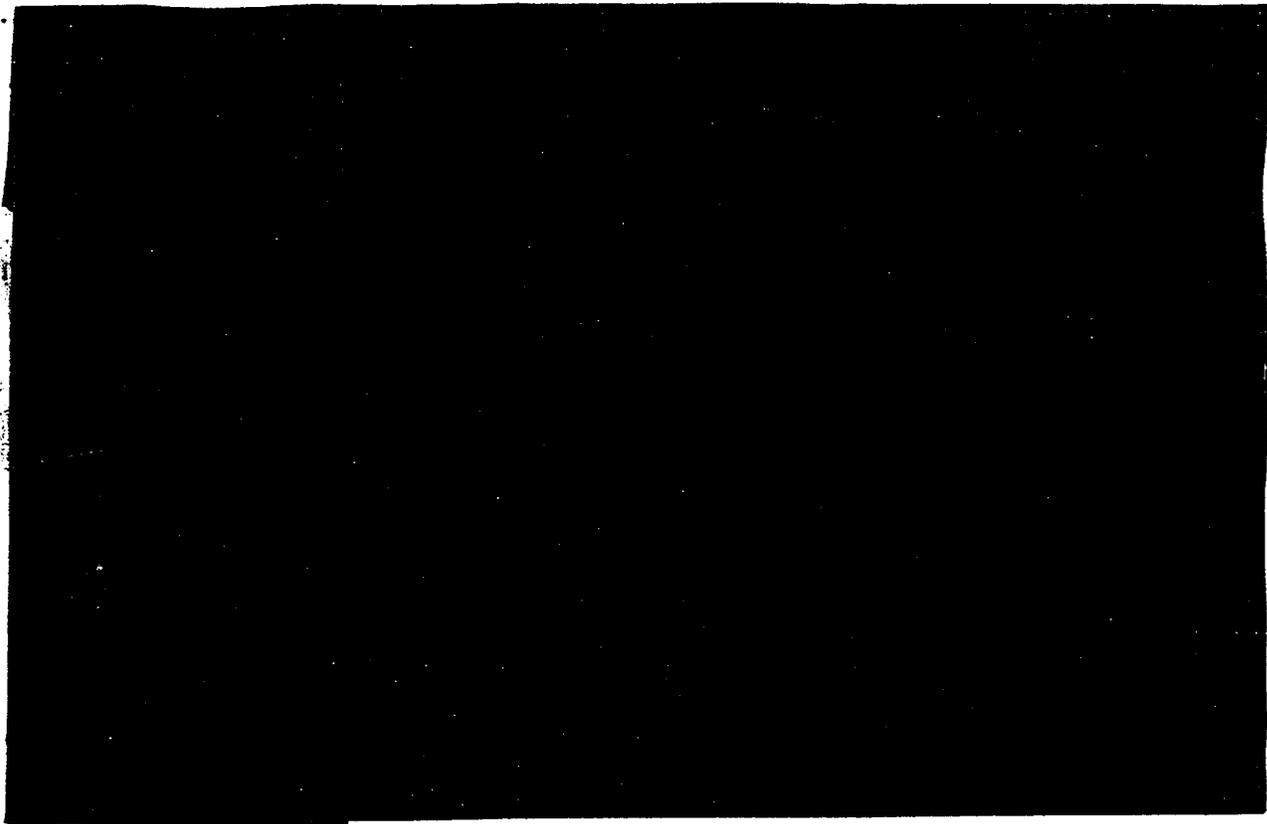
9 September, a clandestine radio transmitter was heard in Cuba appealing to the armed forces to join in fighting Castro.

The growth of popular dissatisfaction with the Castro regime in many parts of the island suggests that the position of the guerrilla bands may not be completely hopeless. This dissatisfaction erupted into open violence early this week in the province of Matanzas where there was a clash between pro-Castro and anti-Communist groups, and subsequent popular demonstrations demanding the release of anti-Communist prisoners resulted in several casualties. The militia and police were able to disperse the demonstrators only by firing into the crowd.

Castro is undoubtedly aware from his own revolutionary experience that, in a climate of growing popular unrest, even a very small guerrilla band could mushroom into a serious threat.



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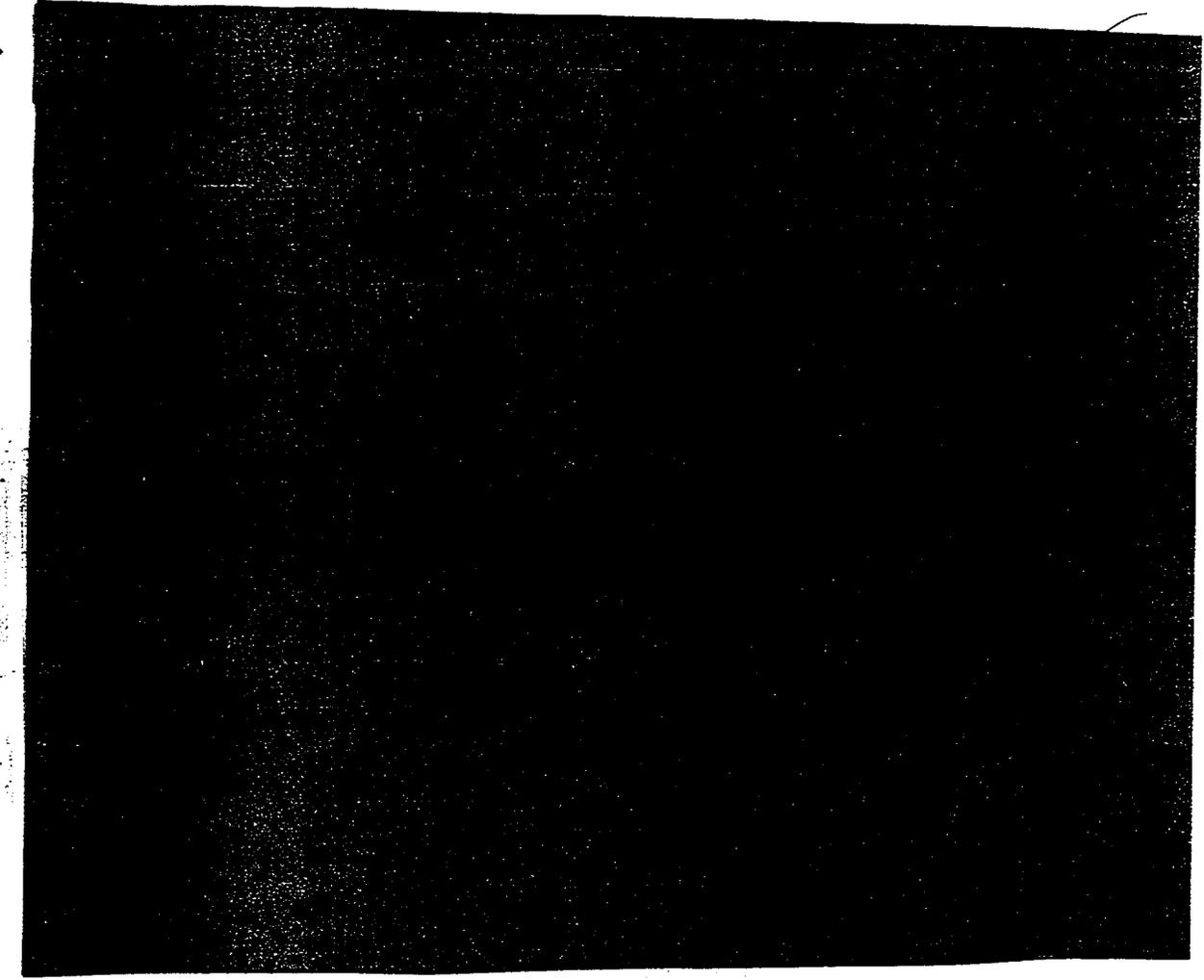
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Brazil Seen Moving Toward Stiffer Attitude on Cuba: Cuba's public attack on Brazilian Foreign Minister Lafer as an "errand boy" for Washington has outraged most of the press in Rio de Janeiro and is bringing heretofore unconvinced moderate elements into the anti-Castro camp, according to the American Embassy in Brazil. The Cuban attack on Brazil--based on Lafer's position at the recently concluded Inter-American Meeting of Foreign Ministers--was considerably milder than the accusations leveled against Argentina, but the language was so offensive that even the foreign minister's enemies have rallied to his defense.

However, Janio Quadros, leading contender for the presidency in the elections scheduled for 3 October and Brazil's most prominent apologist for Castro, apparently has withheld comment, probably believing that the incident will blow over. Earlier Cuban attacks on President Kubitschek were largely forgotten by the press following Quadros' visit to Cuba in late March. Quadros praised the ideals of the Cuban revolution, and newsmen who accompanied him asserted that American wire services consistently distort news from Cuba.

The Brazilian Government has vacillated on the Cuban question partly out of a desire to pursue Brazil's traditional role as a mediator in inter-American affairs and also to exploit the issue as a means of forcing liberalization of American aid policies. It has been reported that a presidential representative may soon visit Cuba to "prepare for the return of Fidel Castro's government to the community of American nations."

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