

Cuban Situation Worsening

Ambassador Bonaventura Herrera believes it has now become essential that US citizens, including dependents of government employees, be quietly encouraged to leave the country. Among recent events leading to this conclusion was the 19-20 September mass rally protesting the "indignities" suffered by Fidel Castro in New York; the demonstrators were unusually determined and could easily have been incited to violence had the government so desired. Although there have thus far been very few occasions when the personal security of Americans in Cuba has been jeopardized, the hostile propaganda being steadily disseminated by the regime is bound to have an effect on the public. Anti-US violence now is an increasing possibility and would be a near certainty if Castro were physically attacked during his New York visit.

The embassy has also transmitted an unevaluated report from a contact in the Cuban Foreign Ministry that Cuba is preparing to break diplomatic relations with the United States, and may do so shortly after Castro's return from the United Nations. [REDACTED]

Other foreign officials in Cuba are becoming concerned for their safety. [REDACTED] the Haitian consul in Santiago de Cuba asked his government for a 48-hour leave to evacuate his family, because "the situation is most difficult and full of uncertainty." [REDACTED]

According to reports from two sources, 12 Soviet technicians are engaged in some type of military construction at Managua, an army base southeast of Havana. Six large crates, allegedly containing "rockets or some type of heavy artillery," have reportedly been transported to the site. The activity probably involves anti-aircraft weapons. [REDACTED]

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