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GENERAL

1. Yugoslav-Cuban Relations: Belgrade's conclusion on 30 July of its first permanent trade agreement with Cuba is a further indication of continuing Yugoslav support for the Castro regime. Yugoslavia will export industrial goods and will receive sugar, leather, agricultural products, and minerals of unspecified amounts. A scientific and technical cooperation agreement was also concluded.

Yugoslavia has consistently supported Castro, but it has sought to prevent this support from affecting its relations with the United States. On 15 July, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kunc implied a censure of US policy toward Cuba, but Yugoslav officials subsequently sought to soften their position in private talks with American diplomats. In a move to improve the milieu for talks with US Under Secretary of State Dillon, conducted in Belgrade from 17 to 20 July, Kunc announced the postponement of the Cuban trade delegation's visit, scheduled to begin on 13 July. The delegation arrived two weeks later.

Belgrade's concern over its relations with the US is based on its need for continued American assistance--particularly financial aid in carrying out a sizable economic and currency reform. Yugoslav papers were quick to acclaim both the transfer of the Cuban charges against the US from the forum of the United Nations to the Organization of American States and Ambassador Lodge's statement in the UN that the US harbors no aggressive intentions toward Cuba.

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1997

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NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS

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