

5 Cuba Reported Discussing Cooperation With Argentine Peronistas: Various sources have informed the American Embassy in Havana that Juan Remorino, former Argentine foreign minister under Peron, is negotiating with the Cuban Government concerning cooperation with the Peronistas and Communists in Argentina for the overthrow of President Frondizi. Argentine-born Che Guevara, Cuba's economic tsar, reportedly has consulted with Remorino on three occasions. Remorino once extricated Guevara from a tight spot in Guatemala during the revolution there in 1954, and the favor has not been forgotten.

Other important Peronista exiles now in Cuba are also involved in such talks, according to two press sources. Specifically mentioned were John William Cooke, who used to be mentioned as Peron's heir apparent before a reported falling out, and Angel Borlenghi, the crypto-Communist minister of interior under Peron. Borlenghi was concurrently head of the Confederation of Commercial Employees, the largest single labor union in Argentina during Peron's regime. The present head of the Buenos Aires Commercial Employees Federation, Armando March, is reported living in Che Guevara's apartment in Buenos Aires and is accused of being a Cuban agent. At a meeting in Havana on 30 April, March was made an honorary president of the Directing Council of a group called Latin American Solidarity With Cuba.

The atmosphere for Cuban-Peronista talks is presently favored by Cuba's resentment of Argentina's suggestion that Havana repudiate Khrushchev's missile-rattling offer of support against the US.

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6. Friction Between Church and Castro Regime Increasing: In his television speech of 18 July, Premier Fidel Castro denounced the "counterrevolutionary activities" of "Falangist" priests whom he accused of being responsible for the spontaneous anti-Communist demonstrations by Havana churchgoers on 17 and 18 July. Castro said that "the reactionary clergy has not been bothered" by his regime and declared that "the people must not permit themselves to be dragged into the game" by counterrevolutionary demonstrators. The charges of the Cuban leader, who interrupted his convalescence to deliver the blast, indicate the regime's concern with increasing evidences of church opposition to the government's growing economic and political ties with the Communist world.

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Despite the publication last May of a strongly anti-Communist pastoral letter by the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, most church authorities have hesitated to take a firm public stand against Castro or his policies. Church officials previously have admitted that they have only limited influence with the Cuban people and that, unless careful preparations were made, most Cubans would support Castro in the event of a showdown between him and the church. Divergent attitudes toward Castro by the large number of Spanish-born priests in Cuba and the native Cuban clergy may also hinder church unity on the question.

The Catholic hierarchy's determination to oppose the Castro regime openly may be hardened by the government's use of force in suppressing the anti-Communist demonstrations on 17 and 18 July. According to Ambassador Bonsal, the incidents have created a tenses atmosphere within influential Catholic lay circles, and serious repercussions may develop.

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