

1997

LATIN AMERICA

6. Cuban Effort to Camouflage European Arms Purchase: The Castro government wants the UAR to pose as the purchaser of arms bought by Cuba in Switzerland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Castro's ambassador in Italy suggested the arms be shipped via the UAR to avoid "the current embargo against Cuba" and expressed interest in knowing the extent of the UAR's willingness to help.

[REDACTED]  
Cairo's interest in supplying light arms and military planes to Cuba and its willingness, following an approach from Havana, to receive a number of Cuban students for pilot training. Since the reported recent arrest and possible execution of most of Cuba's jet pilots for suspected disaffection, Castro's attempts to buy military aircraft will probably be increasingly accompanied by requests for pilot training.

The Castro regime has already purchased substantial arms supplies from Belgium and Italy and may receive more under its economic agreements signed on 10 June with Czechoslovakia. In addition to present Cuban emphasis on arming the politically reliable people's militias, there is at least one report that Castro hopes to ship arms to other Latin American countries for use by his supporters. [REDACTED]