

Poland-Cuba: Poland is negotiating the terms of small-scale economic aid to Cuba despite US warnings that this would jeopardize Poland's chances of receiving continued financial assistance from the United States.

[REDACTED]

These terms were arrived at after a \$5,000,000 US

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credit to Poland was held up in January on the basis of an earlier offer of aid Poland reportedly made to Cuba. To date the Poles have responded only unofficially with the argument that their trade with Havana is not aid but is conducted on the same basis as their commercial relations with other underdeveloped countries. [REDACTED]

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Poland Negotiating Aid for Cuba

In conversations with US officials over the past two months, Polish representatives have gone to great lengths to play down their relations with Cuba and have stressed that their actions have not been and will not be inimical to US interests.

Poland was reminded in January that under the Mutual Security Act the US will refuse to grant assistance to any country which provides economic or military aid to the Castro regime. The new and less favorable tender made on 7 February apparently was offered in reaction to the US position. The Polish regime evidently feels that the new terms can be more easily defended as falling within the meaning of "normal" commercial transactions.

Possibly in anticipation of US objections, the first Polish-Cuban trade agreement, dated 31 March 1960, provided that separate credit terms would be set for each Polish industrial plant bought by Cuba. The foundry contract may be the precursor of many which the Poles plan to finance with relatively small credits, the aggregate of which could amount to a substantial contribution to the bloc's economic aid program in Cuba. Among other items, Poland is negotiating for the delivery on credit of a complete shipyard, a pig iron foundry, tool factories, copper and iron ore processing plants, television and radio factories, and a meat processing plant. [REDACTED]

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