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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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27 January 1961

Handwritten:
J. Edgar Hoover
A. D. H. E. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Is Time on Our Side in Cuba?

1. We continue to believe that Castro's position in Cuba is likely to grow stronger rather than weaker as time goes on. This issue was the principal concern of SNIE 85-3-60, "Prospects of the Castro Regime," 8 December 1960. Information received since then, notably two long Embassy dispatches directly bearing on the subject, tends to confirm this view.

2. In brief, our basic conclusion is that while Castro will probably continue to lose popular support, this loss is likely to be more than counterbalanced by the regime's increasingly effective controls over daily life in Cuba and by the increasing effectiveness of its security forces for maintaining control. While the regime's enemies are growing in numbers, no one group or combination of them seems well enough organized or sufficiently strong to offer a serious threat to Castro's authority. We believe that economic difficulties will not become great enough to jeopardize the regime's position -- it appears that this year's sugar crop will be of normal

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size -- and that in any event the Sino-Soviet Bloc can be depended on to provide a level of assistance sufficient to bail Castro out of any serious economic difficulties.

3. There is a greater disposition among Latin American governments to take some action on the Cuba problem than was apparent in early December, but this has not affected the internal situation of the Castro regime.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

SHERMAN KENT
Chairman

-2-

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