

[REDACTED]

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE AS SANITIZED

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba

1997

[REDACTED] Castro forces have suffered "considerable casualties" and loss of several coastal points in southern Las Villas Province, according to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a unit of the attacking forces had penetrated inland to the Laguna del Tesoro on the Matanzas provincial boundary. A Cuban radio station monitored by US press agencies issued an appeal for ambulances, "because there are many injured in Jaguey Grande," a town in Matanzas some 20 miles from the coast. Although the anti-Castro Revolutionary Council claims that the 17 April landings were intended largely to facilitate action by larger forces already within Cuba, there has as yet been no information [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of any significant action in support of the landing forces. [REDACTED] report continued arrests of suspected anti-Castro elements throughout the island.

Pro-Castro groups elsewhere in Latin America were quick to react to the outbreak of fighting in Cuba. Mobs stoned USIA offices in Buenos Aires and the offices of an American airline in the Chilean capital on 17 April. Anti-US demonstrations also occurred in at least six other Latin American cities on the same day, and more demonstrations are scheduled. In

Bogota, demonstrators were dispersed by gunfire in front of the US Embassy. The Venezuelan armed forces, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were alerted for demonstrations by the relatively strong pro-Castro groups in that country. Former Ecuadorean Interior Minister Araujo, addressing a pro-Castro rally in Quito on 17 April, called for volunteers to go to Cuba "to fight Yankee imperialism." Mexican ex-President Cardenas announced that he will go to Cuba as a personal gesture of solidarity with the Castro regime.

A Soviet Government statement on 18 April said that continuation of the invasion of Cuba "may have the gravest consequences for world peace." The statement declared that the USSR "reserves the right to take all measures, with all states, to render the necessary assistance to the Republic of Cuba if the armed interference in the affairs of the Cuban peoples is not stopped." The Soviet Government expressed the hope that the US Government would understand that the invasion of Cuba could "endanger the peaceful life of the population of the United States itself." The statement demanded immediate consideration of the Cuban situation by the UN General Assembly.

[REDACTED]