

IA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

14 July 1960

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1997

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

DELETED TEXT
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TO BAY OF PIGS

Cuba

In a speech on 9 July to a teachers' congress in Moscow, Khrushchev departed from a report of his Austrian visit to project the USSR into the Cuban situation and inflate the issue into a major international question. Khrushchev resorted to a familiar Soviet political warfare device of implying strong Soviet countermoves in a hypothetical situation, but without actually committing the USSR to a specific course of action. After charging the United States with economic aggression and plans for armed intervention, Khrushchev stated that "figuratively speaking, Soviet artillery, in the event of necessity, can with their rocket firepower support the Cuban people if the aggressive forces in the Pentagon dare begin intervention against Cuba."

As in past cases of such calculated ambiguity, Khrushchev began to soften the implications almost immediately. His 10 July

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letter to Fidel Castro, avoiding any pledge of military support, limited Moscow to expressions of sympathy and indignation. The US Embassy in Moscow reports that the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the remarks as dealing only with a hypothetical situation, and in his press conference on 12 July Khrushchev merely promised Soviet "support" in the event of aggression toward Cuba.

Moscow is apparently maneuvering to be in a position for Khrushchev to claim, during his forthcoming visit to Havana, that the USSR compelled the US to abandon plans for armed intervention. The Soviet premier's participation in the dispute may also be the propaganda groundwork for an arms agreement between Castro and the bloc. Soviet propaganda coverage of the Cuban situation reached a record high in the week ending 10 July.

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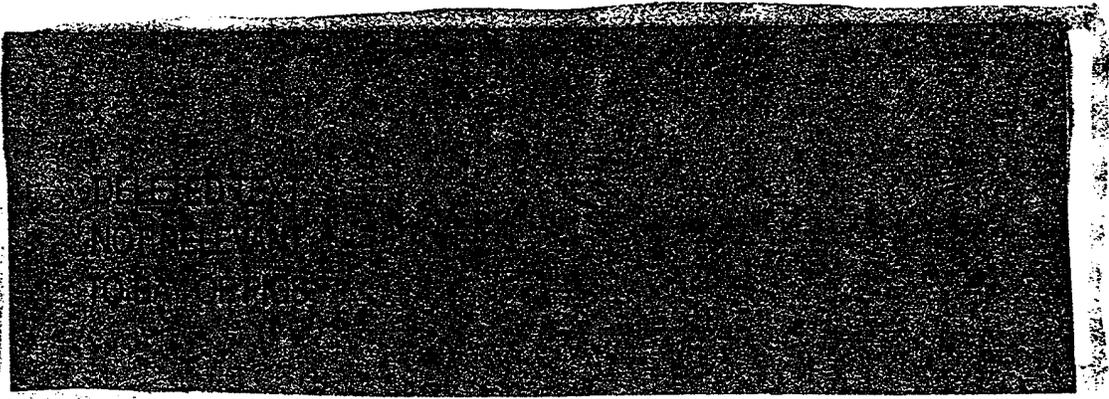
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PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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CUBA

The immediate response among Castro followers to Khrushchev's declaration of support for the Castro regime on 9 July was fast and enthusiastic. "Che" Guevara told the 10 July rally, called to protest US "acts of economic warfare" against the regime, that "today Cuba is a glorious island defended by the rockets of the greatest military power in history. We are practically the arbiters of world peace."

In contrast, Fidel Castro, in his sickbed talk to the nation, recognized Khrushchev's "spontaneous" declaration of support, but added that "Cuba does not depend for the defense of its sovereignty and independence on Soviet rockets, but rather on the reason and justice of its cause." Three days later Guevara publicly stated that if the Soviet Union attempts to establish Cuba as a Soviet satellite, "We will fight it to the last drop of blood."

President Dorticos, in his bitter anti-US harangue at the Sunday rally, announced Soviet

willingness to take the sugar cut from Cuba's 1960 US quota. Moscow is apparently prepared to take whatever quantities are considered politically expedient. Barter arrangements for the sugar, necessitating stepped-up exports of Soviet goods to Cuba, would further strengthen Soviet-Cuban economic ties.

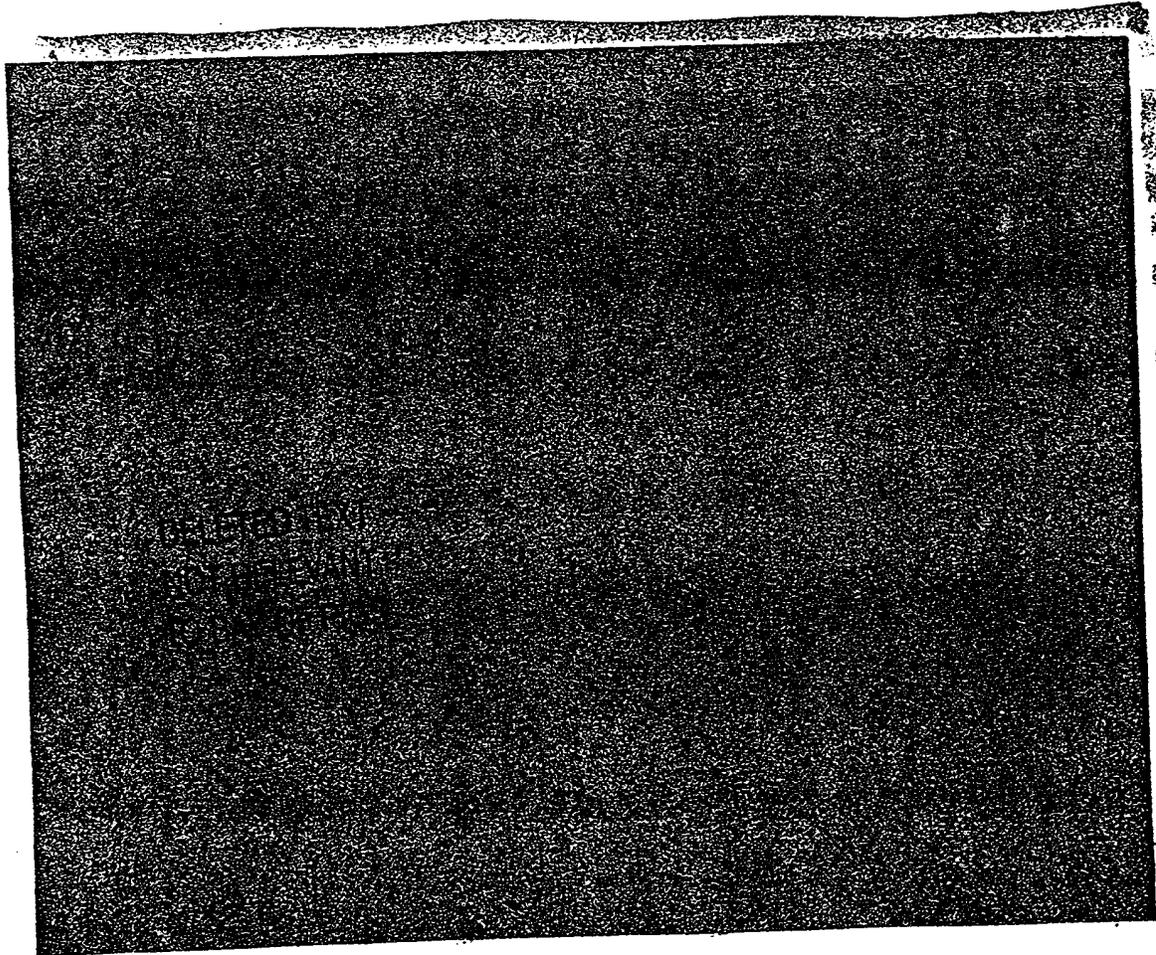
The American Embassy believes most educated Cubans oppose Castro's alignment of his country with the Soviet bloc, although opposition is still unorganized and leaderless. Despite the blustering statements by Cuban officials assuring the public that the regime can, with Soviet help, survive "the economic onslaught of US imperialism," some are worried. A reliable contact of the embassy's agricultural attaché reports that Castro's ministers of economy and commerce fear the US may embargo food shipments to Cuba. This, they reportedly fear, would create a "dangerous" situation in Cuba, worse than the impending shortage in farm and industrial machinery parts.

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The trends in Cuba continue toward tighter dictatorship and enhanced Communist influence. The offices of the Havana Bar Association were seized, and on 8 July pro-Castro lawyers named a new governing board, thus "decisively incorporating the legal profession into the revolution." At about the same time, all provincial-level officers of the powerful Communist-dominated Cuban Labor Confederation (CTC) were replaced by "men who truly respond to the revolutionary moment in which the country now lives." The CTC is the regime's chief instrument of control over labor.

[REDACTED] a continuing effort against "counterrevolutionary" activity. [REDACTED] on 7 July, ordered the detention of 17 Cuban Army officers.

The Castro regime is believed to be considering the appointment of Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, a high Communist leader and director of the party's daily, as minister of finance to replace the compliant but ineffective incumbent, Rolando Diaz Asterain. Rodriguez has long been among Castro's closest advisers. [REDACTED]



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