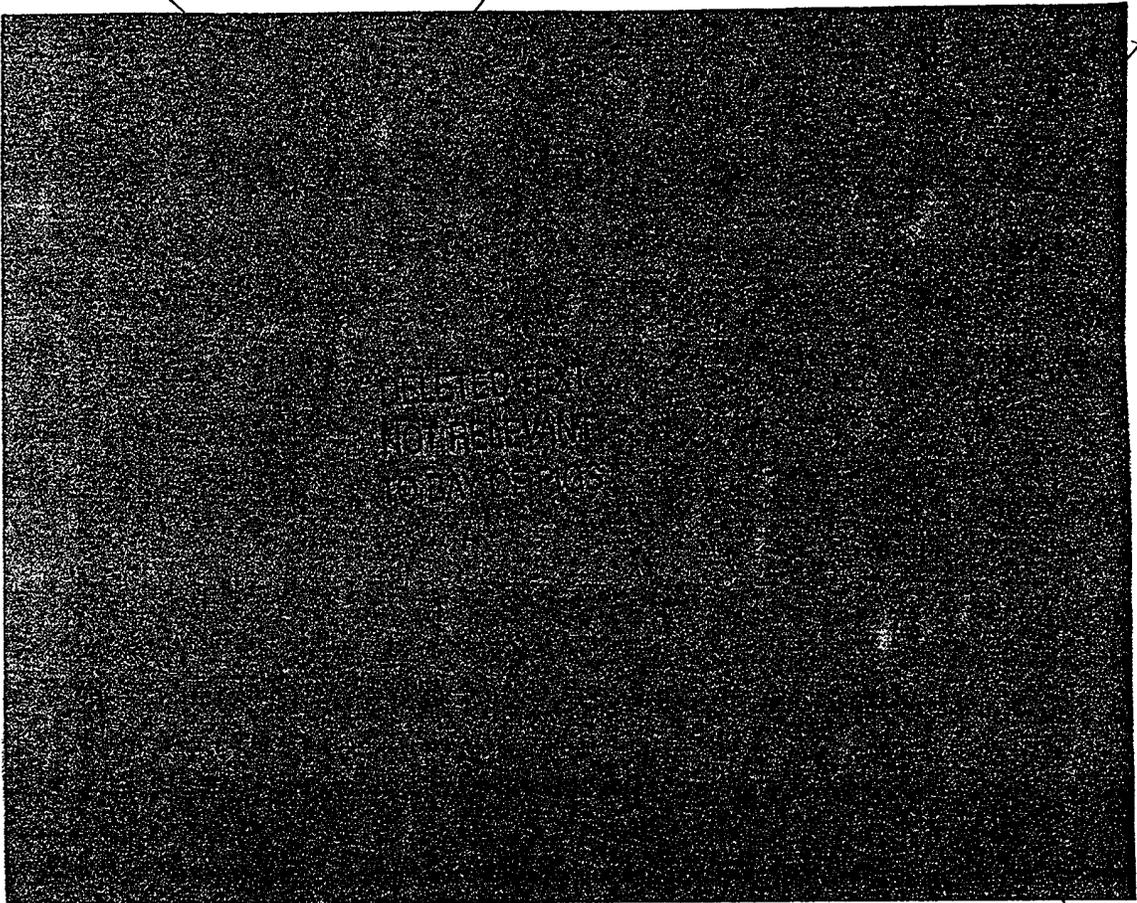


13 October 1960



CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS

The growing counterrevolutionary violence in Cuba, although symptomatic of increasing opposition, does not at this point seriously threaten the Castro regime. Counterrevolutionary groups are divided into mutually antagonistic factions and lack leaders with wide popular appeal. The recent capture of two guerrilla leaders and a number of their followers in the Escambray Mountains of Las Villas Province is a sharp setback for the counterrevolutionaries. These men and others captured in Oriente Province were tried promptly. Sixteen, including one American, were executed on 13 October.

On the other hand, the escape on 8 October of 15 officers imprisoned since last November is an important psychological blow for the regime. These officers were associated with the popular anti-Communist Major Huber Matos, formerly a close associate of Fidel Castro's who was denigrated and jailed a year ago. They may eventually form the core of a fighting group with a genuine popular following. The government's concern is indicated in [redacted] ordering prison authorities on the Isle of Pines to strengthen the guard, [redacted]

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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In Oriente Province, where only a few of last week's small band of "invaders" remain at large, there are reports of defections by armed forces elements and militia personnel, who have apparently taken to the mountains for antigovernment guerrilla operations. Some of these defections are confirmed [REDACTED]

The Cuban petroleum industry, forced to shut down operations at the nationalized Esso refinery because of a shortage in the catalyst used in the refining process, received eight carloads of the material on 3 October from a company in the United States. Plans were made to reactivate the refinery, and a scheduled rationing of petroleum products was indefinitely postponed. However, when two of the carloads were tested, the material was found to be adulterated and unusable, according to [REDACTED]

If the remainder is found in a similar condition, the industry will have no usable catalyst, since the impure imports were mixed with the last 20 tons of good stocks before the initial tests were run.

Cuba has received what are probably its second and third major shipments of Soviet bloc military equipment, and further shipments are expected. The Soviet vessel Sergey Kirov began unloading over 3,000 tons of [REDACTED] at a small port some 38 miles west of Havana on 1 October. Because of the ship's loading port and [REDACTED], the shipment is believed to be material. Preliminary reports indicate that the cargo includes very large crates, some of which have been moved to an air base. MIG fighters, tanks, and other armaments have been reported in the cargo.

The Nikolay Burdenko arrived in Havana on 9 October, and there is strong evidence that it carried a large military cargo. A fourth ship, the Atkarsk, is expected to arrive in Cuba about 22 October. It carries a cargo of about 8,000 tons, of which at least 2,400 tons is military equipment.

The Cuban-Bulgarian commercial agreement signed in Havana on 7 October was the seventh such agreement concluded by Cuba this year with a Sino-Soviet bloc country. Bulgaria agreed to buy at least 20,000 tons of Cuban sugar annually for the next five years and to increase its purchases of other Cuban products. A protocol on scientific and cultural cooperation was also signed, and the two countries agreed to establish diplomatic relations on the embassy level.

A member of the Hungarian trade mission now back in Budapest after signing a commercial agreement with Cuba on 14 September implied, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that Hungary may resell Cuban sugar to the West--contrary to the assurances Cuba usually obtains in its bloc sugar deals. [REDACTED]

The US Embassy has received an unevaluated but plausible report on current thinking within high Cuban Communist circles. Communist leaders are said to estimate that Cuba will be subjected to military attack by the United States early next year. The Cuban Communists, who reportedly control 8,000 to 10,000 members of the militia, would have the mission of fighting to the end and causing the greatest possible chaos for as long as possible. [REDACTED]