

GENERAL

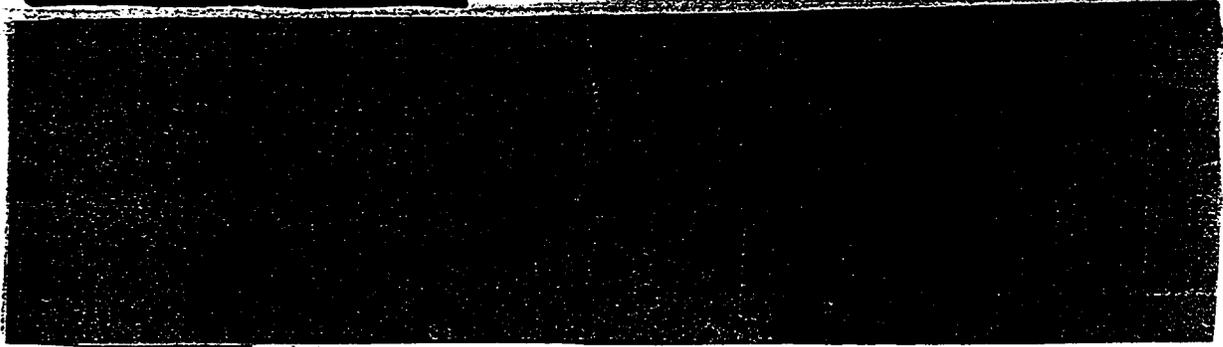
1. Czech Arms Photographed in Cuba: A photograph taken by a UPI correspondent at a military ceremony on 21 August at the Cuban air base at San Julian clearly shows that Czech semiautomatic 7.62-mm.rifles, distinguished by a folding bayonet, have been issued to the Cuban militia. A government official at this ceremony is said to have announced that these rifles are of Czech manufacture. These are the first bloc arms to be positively identified in Cuba and presumably are part of a shipment possibly made in early July. Havana already possesses an overabundance of semiautomatic rifles, some inherited from the Batista regime and others supplied from Belgium and other West European countries.

At a military air base near Havana, bloc technicians have assembled the four helicopters delivered last July. These helicopters, although of Soviet design, may have been manufactured in Czechoslovakia, and the Czech rifles may have been delivered at the same time.

There is no reliable indication of the amount of Czech materiel which has been delivered, nor is there conclusive evidence of the channels of delivery, whether direct or through an intermediary. Shipments of major military items, such as jet aircraft, are not known to have been initiated. Cubans probably will receive extensive training in the bloc before this type of military equipment is delivered; Czechoslovakia now may be conducting such training for perhaps as many as 100 Cubans.

While these activities strongly suggest that large-scale bloc military assistance ultimately will be given Cuba, it is evident that Moscow has moved slowly in setting these events in motion. The disclosure that the Cuban militia is being outfitted with bloc small arms probably will provoke a strong hostile reaction in much of Latin America.

2.



CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1997

DELETED TEXT  
NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS

