

III. THE WEST

Cuba: The potential exists for a power struggle between Raul Castro, Fidel's designated heir, and "Che" Guevara, who has already assumed much of the authority formerly exercised by the

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5 Aug 60

DAILY BRIEF

iii

5 Aug 60

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Page 1

elder Castro. The danger to the regime of such a power struggle will increase if Fidel Castro's illness is prolonged. Neither Raul Castro, Guevara, nor the increasingly influential President Dorticos possesses Fidel Castro's great popular appeal among lower income groups, upon which the regime has come to depend.

Meanwhile, Cuban officials have exhorted delegates to the Communist-dominated Latin American Youth Congress to carry the struggle initiated by Cuba for "Latin American liberation" back to their home countries. [REDACTED]

LATE ITEM

*USSR-Cuba: Two officials of the Soviet Chief Engineering Directorate--the component of Moscow's Ministry of Foreign Trade responsible for the supply of arms and military equipment to foreign countries--have been in Havana. One of these men, Yastrebov, is the Soviet official responsible for the shipment to nonbloc countries of military equipment from the Black Sea port of Nikolaev, where almost all Soviet arms shipments originate. His presence in Havana strongly suggests that Moscow has agreed to provide military aid to the Castro regime. Similar arrangements between Czechoslovakia and Cuba may have been worked out earlier this year, although no bloc arms are believed yet to have been delivered. [REDACTED]

NO

5 Aug 60

DAILY BRIEF

iv

5 Aug 60

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Page 1