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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1997

23 June 1960

PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

CUBA

The resignation of two under secretaries in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, announced on 17 June, appears to be the precursor of a general shakeup that is likely to end in increased Communist influence over Cuba's foreign policy. Foreign Minister Raul Roa apparently has been held responsible for various recent foreign policy failures, including the collapse of Cuba's effort to sponsor a conference of underdeveloped nations; he will probably be removed shortly.

One of the newly appointed under secretaries--Hector Rodriguez Llompart--is believed to be a Communist; the other recently voiced strong anti-US sentiments during a tour of Latin America. Both may have been selected by Raul Castro, who has played a key role in Communist inroads in the military, organized labor, and other areas.

The Castro regime, with the support of the Soviet bloc, is making evident progress in implementing its long-standing goal of reducing Cuba's traditional economic dependence on the United States. Cuba, which used to conduct as much as 70 percent of its foreign trade with the United States, now is turning to the Soviet bloc for many of the products formerly bought elsewhere. Data for the first three months of this year indicate that 1960 imports from the United States will probably be half what they were in 1958, the last full year before Castro came to power. The decline results only partly from an over-all reduction in imports to conserve foreign exchange.

Agreements for trade, technical assistance, and credits totaling \$120,000,000 have been signed with the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and East Germany since last February. The effects of these agreements will be increasingly felt in the latter half of the year, but the credits will not contribute substantially until 1961. Realization that Soviet oil shipments to Cuba will significantly reduce Venezuela's share of the Cuban market has already led to a sharp reaction from the Venezuelan minister of mines. He said Cuba could not count on access to Venezuelan crude oil in the future if it reduced imports now.

A Cuban economic mission headed by agrarian reform director Nunez Jimenez has reached a series of agreements in Moscow giving substance to the Soviet-Cuban trade and aid agreements concluded last February. It also concluded a cultural exchange accord, the details of which are to be worked out later, and reached agreement on a Khrushchev-Castro exchange of visits.

No formal announcement of dates has yet been made, but Soviet Ambassador Bazykin in Mexico is quoted by a progovernment radio in Cuba as saying that the Soviet Union will open its embassy in Havana before Khrushchev visits Cuba "in August." The mission arrived in Warsaw on 19 June, and is also scheduled to visit Czechoslovakia and East Germany to negotiate for the implementation of the agreements signed with those countries.

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The Communists will dominate the Castro-sponsored Latin American Youth Conference, scheduled to open in Havana on 26 July. According to a usually reliable source, invitations to attend the meeting have been sent covertly to 17 national youth organizations outside Latin America, including the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Communist China, and overtly to the Communist-dominated International Union of Students, World Federation of Democratic

Youth, and World Federation of Trade Unions.

Invitations were also sent to some non-Communist organizations, probably to camouflage Communist control of the conference. The Communists of Latin America will thus be given another opportunity to coordinate their efforts to win sympathizers among students of the hemisphere with the guidance and assistance of international Communist agencies.

NOT RELEVANT