

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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1999

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

The attached two papers were requested by O/DD/I on 25 January 1966 for the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Papers were completed on that date and hand-carried to O/DD/I

25 Jan 1966  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED

~~SECRET~~

Soviet Technicians in Cuba

An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 Soviet technicians currently are present in Cuba. About 2,000 of these are military personnel while the remainder are economic technicians. The total number of Soviet technicians has remained fairly stable over the past year, well below peak levels of some 18,000 military personnel in early 1963 and 5,000 economic technicians in mid-1963.

The 2,000 man military presence includes some military advisors, but most are technical and maintenance personnel (300 to 500 of which are engaged in providing operational and technical support for Cuba's SAM system). The 2,000 to 3,000 economic technicians are engaged in a variety of tasks throughout the Cuban economy. The largest single group, one-fourth or more of the total, is made up of agricultural technicians. While many of these are professional agronomists, there are also numerous individuals that only are skilled agricultural workers. The next largest group is that of economic technicians employed in the various ministries of the Cuban government as advisors in planning and in the day-to-day operation of the economy. Perhaps as many as 500 fall into this category. In addition, there are from 150 to 200 Soviet geologists engaged in a geological and mineral survey of Cuba, some 100 Soviet educators in various Cuban universities and technical schools, and more than 100 construction and installation engineers at work on Soviet development projects. Other Soviet personnel are found throughout industry, construction, and transportation. Finally, there are some Soviet medical personnel in Cuba.

~~GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~