

24 August 1960

CUBA

- I. Eighth national congress of Cuban Communists' Popular Socialist party (16 to 22 August) featured--as was expected--violent attacks on "Yankee imperialism," pleas for "unity" among forces of Cuban revolution, and statements of "solidarity with Cuba" by foreign Communist representatives.
- A. Congress attended by at least 65 "fraternal delegates" from 31 foreign Communist parties, including most Bloc parties.
1. But reports do not mention any USSR party representative.
- B. Twelve-hour report by party secretary general Blas Roca emphasized party role in Castro revolution and criticized Cuba's continued lack of diplomatic relations with Peiping.
- C. Chinese party central committee member General Wu Siu-chuan, who addressed congress on 20 August, praised Cuba for giving Latin Americans "brilliant example" in struggle for emancipation from US domination.
- D. New party program urges action against remaining US-owned property, ouster of US from Guantanamo, and rapid completion of remodeling of government on Communist pattern.
- E. Congress and party program received extensive favorable publicity in Cuba's controlled press.
- II. Complete purge of Cuban naval officer corps apparently now under way following 17 August government raid on Havana navy yard.
- A. Raid evidently stimulated by evidence or reports of anti-government plotting by Navy personnel.
- B. With elimination of moderate elements in Navy, Castro's process of "revolutionizing" the armed forces will be complete.

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III. But evidences of other domestic opposition to government continue.

A. Small anti-Castro groups raided three army and militia garrisons in central provinces of Camaguey and Las Villas during past week.

B. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] certain forces to remain at their bases "for duration of OAS conferences," and stating militia would be used "to guard possible sabotage targets."

1. Militia--which may now number as much as 200,000--is playing increasingly important role.

IV. And church-state friction is again on rise following Castro's 11 August attack on church hierarchy.

A. Ecclesiastial authorities reportedly have conclusive information that government is preparing decree expelling some foreign religious orders and closing some Catholic universities and other schools.

B. Bishops may soon issue new and stronger pastoral letter on Communist influence in government.

C. Church officials certain that Castro government inspiring and directing demonstrations against church attendants.

D. Wounding and arrest of Jesuit priest by G-2 agents on 19 August may lead to more violence as news of incident spreads.⁵

Fidel Castro's most recent violently anti-US and anti-OAS speech on August 23-24 pretty well forecasts Cuba's position at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly.

1. He said, "Cuba no longer is and will never more be an appendix of the US economy and will no longer vote in the United Nations at the bidding of their index finger. We shall be the friends of the Soviets and of the Chinese People's Republic because they have proven to be our friends, while the imperialists attack us and want to destroy us."