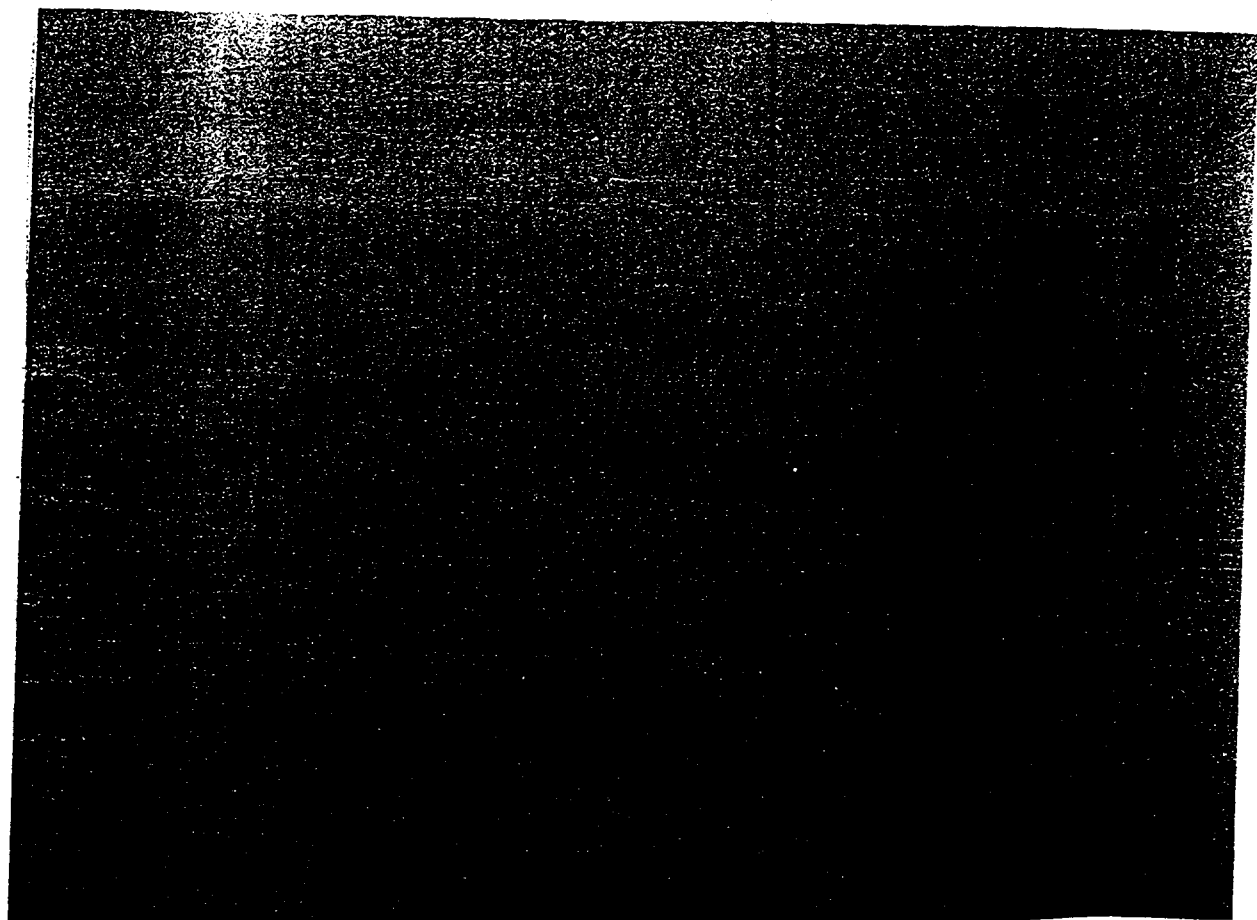


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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

31 March 1960



CARIBBEAN TENSIONS

Castro's Cuba is increasingly hospitable to Latin American Communist activity. The Communists join Castro in condemning the so-called aggressive plans of US imperialism to frustrate the Cuban revolution, and energetically exploit the appeal of his radical reforms and ultranationalistic programs.

Communists or pro-Communists from 15 Latin American countries attended the ceremonies of the "Week of Solidarity With the Struggles of the Latin American Peoples" in Havana from 21 to 26 March. The "solidarity week" was proclaimed by the Cuban Labor Confederation (CTC), the Communist-infiltrated labor arm of the Castro regime,

and warmly endorsed by the Cuban Communist party. A manifesto called for an "anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution" in Latin America and the strengthening of Latin American solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

At the final rally, a Cuban CTC leader announced plans for a "great Latin American congress to create the apparatus to fight the common enemy, imperialism." He said Cuban delegations will leave on 1 May for other Latin American countries "to give them help and to request aid for the Cuban revolution." Many of the week's demonstrations stressed the "unfortunate" plight of Puerto

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Rico, "still under the bondage of the common enemy."

Vicente Lombardo Toledano, veteran Mexican Communist labor leader and head of the Communist-front Confederation of Latin American Workers (CTAL), was among the participants in "solidarity week." During his stay in Havana, he reportedly met with six other Latin American labor leaders to draft a constitution for a proposed new regional labor organization of a "neutralist" orientation which would exclude the United States. This project is in accordance with the aims to reorganize the labor movement in Latin America expressed at meetings between Soviet party leaders and representatives of 19 Latin American Communist parties in Moscow in early 1959. It has recently been promoted by the principal labor organizations of Cuba and Chile, both of which are strongly Communist influenced.

The "Latin American Congress," which was promised at the "solidarity week" rally, could serve the purposes of the ostensibly non-Communist "peoples' conference" which was also planned during the early 1959 meetings in Moscow. The increased liaison among Latin American Communists, now possible in Cuba, and the hemisphere "peace conference" planned for Havana in May or June were also elements in the program developed then in Moscow.

Top Cuban officials meanwhile continue to employ attacks on the United States as a means of whipping up revolutionary fervor. The strident, combative speeches of Fidel

and Raul Castro on 27 March were apparently designed to give the impression that a mercenary invasion of Cuba, backed by "American imperialists," is a virtual certainty.

