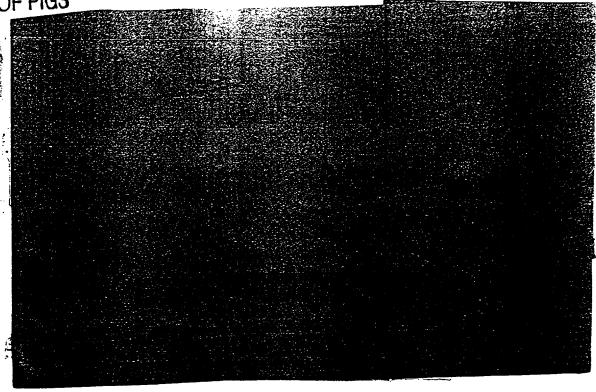
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LATIN AMERICA

12. Communist Youth Congress Under Way in Cuba: The Fourth National Congress of the youth section of the Popular Socialist (Communist) party of Cuba, which opened in Havana on 4 April, has drawn delegates from the Soviet Union, Communist China, Czechoslovakia, and a number of other Soviet bloc countries as well as from various parts of Latin America. The congress, which is to last a week, opened with a rally broadcast over the government-operated television and radio networks. "American imperialism" was the major target of the opening rally, and the central theme was defense of the Cuban revolution.

Preparations are being made for an ostensibly nom-Communist Latin American Youth Congress which is to be held in Cuba, reportedly next July. Anti-Communist youth groups are interested in this congress, but it is expected that it will be manipulated by Communists. A Cuban mission, headed by a close associate of Raul Castro, arrived in Venezuela on 1 April on the first leg of a Latin American tour to invite youth groups to attend preparatory sessions for the youth congress to be held in Havana beginning on 25 April.

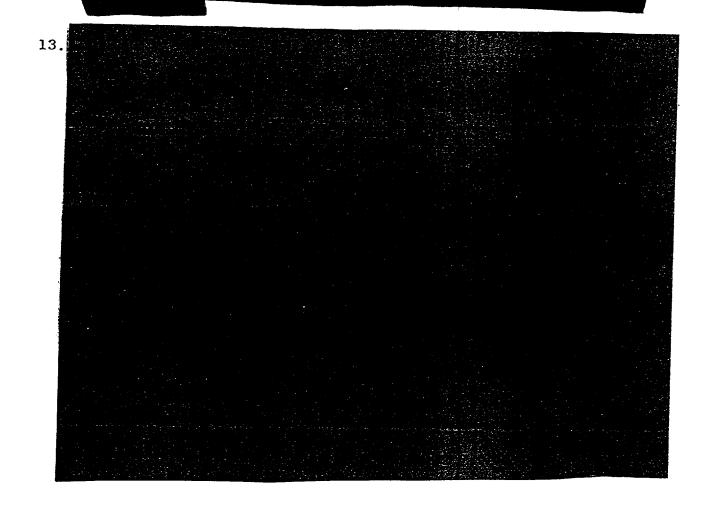
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The Communist youth activities in Cuba are only one indication of the extent to which the Castro regime is lending itself to furtherance of world Communist objectives in Latin America. A Latin American "peace" conference is planned in Cuba in May or June, and plans for a Latin American peoples' conference to "create the apparatus to fight the common enemy, imperialism," were announced on 26 March by a pro-Communist Cuban labor leader.



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