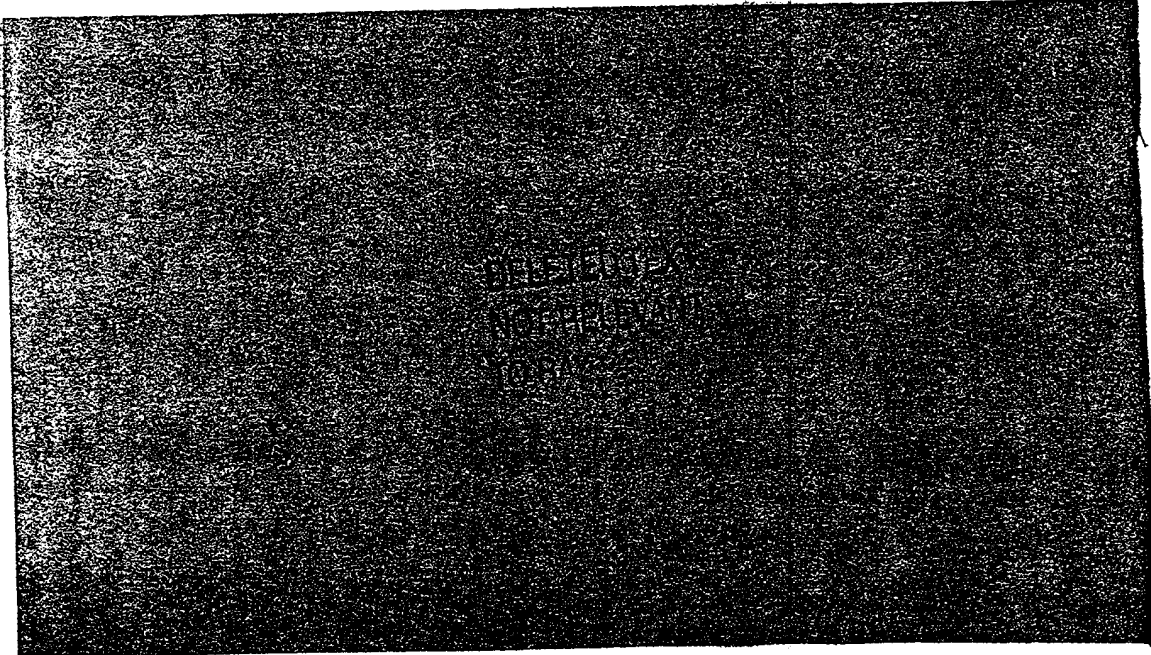


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CUBA

The Castro regime is apparently increasing its efforts to ensure the loyalty of its armed forces and improve their organization and efficiency. In an address on 7 May to the 1,000 prospective members of a new corps of "revolutionary instructors," Castro said that "political and revolutionary awareness" is "the most important thing" in the new armed forces. He referred to Havana as the primary target of a possible invasion by "US troops," and declared that combat units must be prepared and fortifications made "impregnable" so that the Cuban capital could be defended "in the same manner in which Soviet soldiers defended Leningrad and Stalin-grad" in World War II.

The government is rapidly implementing its announced decisions to expel "counterrevolutionary" foreign clergy and to nationalize all private schools. The Cuban radio and press report that some 300 Roman Catholic priests and nuns will leave the island shortly on a Spanish passenger ship, and many more of Cuba's estimated 500 Spanish-born priests are reported preparing to leave. According to a Havana radio report on 5 May, many private schools in Oriente Province have already been taken over, and others are "under the immediate vigilance of the militia."

While no further changes have been made in the economic structure, there are new

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indications that the government intends to reduce and eventually eliminate the small private holdings of those Cuban businessmen who have thus far been permitted to continue operating. Castro said on May Day that the revolution would "coexist" with such enterprises, but on 4 May the Cuban Communist newspaper Hoy warned that "socialism will not be complete until not only the exploitation of one man by another, but the possibility of this exploitation, is eliminated." Small businessmen "can and must" collaborate with the revolution in its present stage, the paper added, but "tomorrow they must gradually integrate themselves into the socialist system."

Meanwhile, the Cuban Government is planning to send a good-will mission to various Latin American countries, perhaps in a new effort to further Cuba's contention that its quarrel is with the US and not with other hemisphere countries.

The volume of unfavorable Latin American comment on Castro's definition of his regime as "socialist" continues to grow. None of the major Latin American countries, however, appears willing to support immediate anti-Castro action by the American republics, although several governments--like the conservative Prado regime in Peru--have consistently appeared ready to countenance unilateral anti-Castro action by another country. A fairly widespread willingness to consent to a meeting of am-

bassadors to the Organization of American States (OAS) for discussion of the Cuban problem may indicate a desire to delay action until a general Latin American consensus develops on the problem.

A Colombian Government memorandum of 5 May delivered to the US Embassy in Bogota proposed that an OAS foreign ministers' meeting be convoked to define and list specific actions which --if they were to occur in the future--could serve as absolute identification of Cuba as a Communist country and at the same time be construed as aggression. The meeting, according to the embassy's interpretation of the plan, would also designate sanctions which could be automatically applied in the event of such aggression without the necessity of OAS consultations. Such a procedure, the Colombians apparently believe, would reduce the possibility of a serious split among OAS members--a situation considered likely if vigorous action against Castro were considered on the basis of his regime's past actions.

The volume of Soviet propaganda on Cuba diminished sharply last week, and Khrushchev's speeches on 6 and 7 May took a generally moderate line on US-Cuban relations. Khrushchev said that although the "aggression against Cuba" has exacerbated the international situation, the USSR "would like to look optimistically upon the further development of events" in Cuba; he avoided any direct references to President Kennedy and did not repeat his previous promise to give Cuba "all necessary assistance" to repel attacks. The Soviet leaders apparently viewed the 17 April landings as a situation that offered obvious advantages for short-term exploitation, but not at

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the cost of jeopardizing higher priority aims in the USSR's relations with the US.

Moscow maintains its circumspect attitude toward Castro's claim that Cuba has entered the "era of socialist construction." The USSR is apparently reluctant to repudiate Castro's claim but unwilling to assume the obligations that would follow from embracing his regime as a full-fledged member of the bloc. In a speech on 7 May, Khrushchev attributed US hostility to Cuba to the fact that "Cuba has declared that it has entered the path of constructing socialism," but he stopped short of identifying Cuba as a member of the "socialist camp." Soviet propaganda portrays Cuba not as a Communist state but as the forerunner of the "profound revolutionary process which all of Latin America now is undergoing."

The ideological and practical problems that Castro's proclamation of a socialist state have created for the USSR were illustrated by the remarks of the counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Vienna to an American official on 8 May. The Soviet diplomat expressed regret that

Castro had taken this step because this "imposes a far greater obligation on us than we envisaged." He added, "Now we are committed to the protection of Cuba to a far greater degree than we intended."

In talks with a US journalist, Soviet diplomats in Washington rejected the idea that Cuba might be taken into the Warsaw Pact, pointing out that the pact is composed exclusively of European states. They also noted that Castro has not created a "classless society" and added, "Why antagonize the United States?"

Although the Soviet Government probably will move to increase economic and military assistance to Castro, it does not appear likely that Khrushchev will attempt to convert Cuba into a Soviet military outpost. The establishment of Soviet military bases in Cuba, in Moscow's view, would hand the US a pretext for direct intervention to overthrow the Castro regime. In his letter of 22 April to President Kennedy, Khrushchev said, "We do not have any bases in Cuba, and we do not intend to establish any."