

[REDACTED]

GENERAL

East Germany and Cuba Establishing
Closer Cultural Ties

Six East German university rectors, who had attended a conference in Mexico, went to Cuba in September as official guests of the Cuban Education Ministry, according to a usually reliable source. On its return to East Germany, the delegation reported that agreements had been concluded with Cuban educational organizations calling for the East German Advanced School for Economics to send teaching and correspondence-course material to the University of Havana and to the director of the Cuban Communist newspaper Hoy.

The Cubans reportedly expressed an interest in further agreements and contracts providing technical personnel, language teachers, study plans, and other teaching materials. Appropriate East German offices have been instructed to review their teaching materials for translation into Spanish. According to [REDACTED], the draft of a cultural agreement drawn

up by the Cuban Government has already been sent to East Berlin for consideration.

Paul Verner, a candidate member of East Germany's politburo, apparently spent two months in Cuba this summer and evidently made some progress in his regime's drive for expansion of economic and cultural relations and diplomatic recognition. "Che" Guevara, the Communist president of the National Bank of Cuba, is scheduled to visit East Berlin later this year. Along with other bloc countries, East Germany is expanding trade and supplying technical aid and has agreed to construct several complete industrial installations in Cuba. The television services of East Germany and Cuba concluded an agreement in August providing for continuous exchange programs.

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