

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997

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Moscow Attempts to Exploit Cuban Situation

While Moscow continues to avoid any public commitment to take military action in the event of "counterrevolutionary invasions" of Cuba backed by the United States, it continues to support Cuban efforts [privately and publicly] to arouse apprehensions that an attack on Cuba is imminent. The USSR's immediate objective probably is to stimulate support in the UN by some neutralist and Latin American nations when Castro's charges against the US are debated.

On 19 October, the day after Cuba submitted its complaint against US "aggression" to the UN General Assembly, [REDACTED]

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Soviet delegate Zorin made a further effort along this line in the UN Steering Committee on 25 October by introducing a motion for consideration of the Cuban complaint in plenary session of the General Assembly. He voiced support of Cuba's charges that the US is organizing and financing a "massive invasion" which could begin "within days, possibly within hours." A local armed conflict, Zorin warned, could very easily develop into a major conflagration. The motion was rejected and the committee recommended that the issue be discussed in the Political Committee.

Soviet diplomatic moves have been accompanied by propaganda warning that "peace-loving peoples" will not sit idly by in the face of an attack on Cuba. In line with Soviet tactics in the Congo situation and in several Middle East crises in recent years, Moscow can be expected to exploit UN debate on Cuba's

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charges against the United States by stepping up these ambiguous threats.

Despite these efforts publicly and privately to arouse concern over the possibility of US intervention in Cuba, it seems unlikely that the USSR expects such action. Khrushchev's threat on 9 July to use rockets "if necessary" in defense of the Castro government in the event of US aggression was so qualified as not actually to constitute a commitment to any specific course of action and it has never been repeated. Furthermore, TASS quoted Khrushchev as saying in a press interview on 25 September, when asked about his rocket threat, "You needn't worry... since America does not intend to attack Cuba, this means that there is no danger whatsoever." [REDACTED]

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