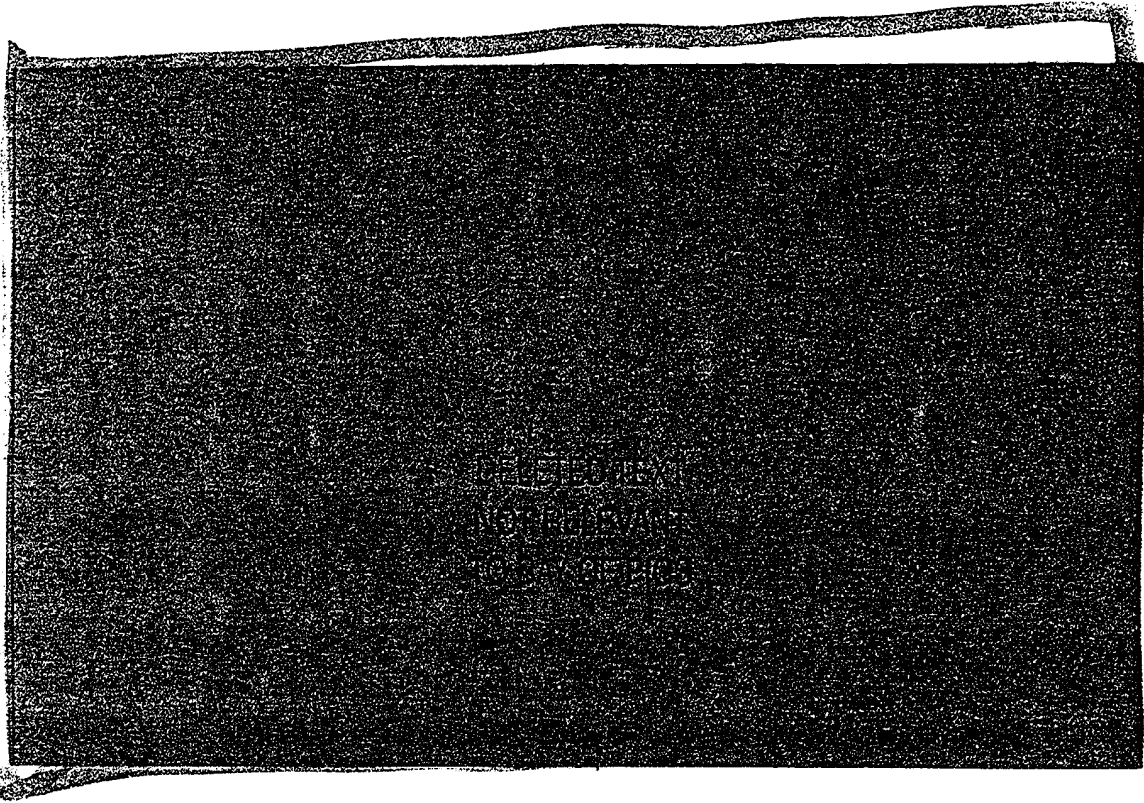


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CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS

Cuban leaders have been vitriolic in their condemnation of the United States and its "lackeys" at the OAS foreign ministers' meetings in Costa Rica, but inside Cuba the proceedings of the eighth national congress of the Communists' Popular Socialist party (PSP) have vied with OAS developments in the press and other propaganda media.

The PSP congress, which opened on 16 August and ended on 22 August, featured the expected violent attacks on US "imperialism," almost unreserved praise for Fidel Castro and his conduct of the revolution, and

pleas for unity among the forces backing the Cuban revolution. PSP Secretary General Blas Roca, in a 12-hour report to the congress, stressed the "unity" theme in his call for the "coordination, cooperation, and fusion of all the conscious and radical Cuban revolutionary forces into a single revolutionary movement under the leadership of Fidel Castro."

In the report to the congress on the PSP program, it was emphasized that much remains to be done, including the "intervention" of remaining US property, ouster of the United States from the Guantanamo Naval

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Base, and completion of the re-modeling of the government on the Communist pattern, eliminating separate judicial, administrative, and legislative branches.

The PSP congress was attended by at least 65 "fraternal" delegates from 31 Communist parties. Many Latin American parties were represented, as well as most Sino-Soviet bloc parties, who sent relatively high-level officials. The Soviet party, however, was apparently not represented by a central committee member and no mention has been made of a Soviet delegate. The French Communist party was represented by Jacques Duclos, second-ranking party leader, and the Italian party by a member of the party central committee.

Chinese Communist party central committee member General Wu Hsiu-chuan addressed the congress on 20 August, praising Cuba for giving Latin Americans a "brilliant example" in the struggle for "emancipation from US domination." Other speakers criticized Cuba's continued lack of diplomatic relations with Communist China.

On the domestic front, there are some signs of open, although still uncoordinated and sporadic, opposition to the regime. A thorough purge of the Cuban Navy is now apparently under way, following the reported discovery of a plot among naval personnel on 17 August. Although the government is maintaining tight secrecy on naval developments, there appears no doubt that the purge is eliminating the last stronghold of moderate elements in the Cuban bureaucracy.

Anti-Castro guerrilla groups have stepped up their activity in the mountains and

foothills of Las Villas and Camaguey provinces. Small guerrilla bands have attacked militia units and in some cases small army garrisons, seizing their weapons.

reported the disarming of several militia members by a guerrilla group in Las Villas, and other instances are known to have occurred, some resulting in casualties. The government's concern is evident in its efforts to eliminate the guerrilla bands.

increased government reliance on the civilian militia for guard duty, for carrying out government action against seized private properties, and, in some instances, for action against antiregime groups. The militia, which all Cubans are regularly being urged to join, now may have reached a total strength of 200,000. Castro addressed 2,000 newly graduated militiamen in Pinar del Rio Province on 21 August, declaring that a "people armed to the teeth" is Cuba's answer to "the intrigues and maneuvers of imperialism" against Cuba.

Church-state friction is rising, and church officials are convinced that the regime is inspiring and directing the frequent demonstrations against churchgoers. The wounding and arrest of a Jesuit priest by Cuban G-2 agents on 19 August may lead to new violence as news of the incident spreads.

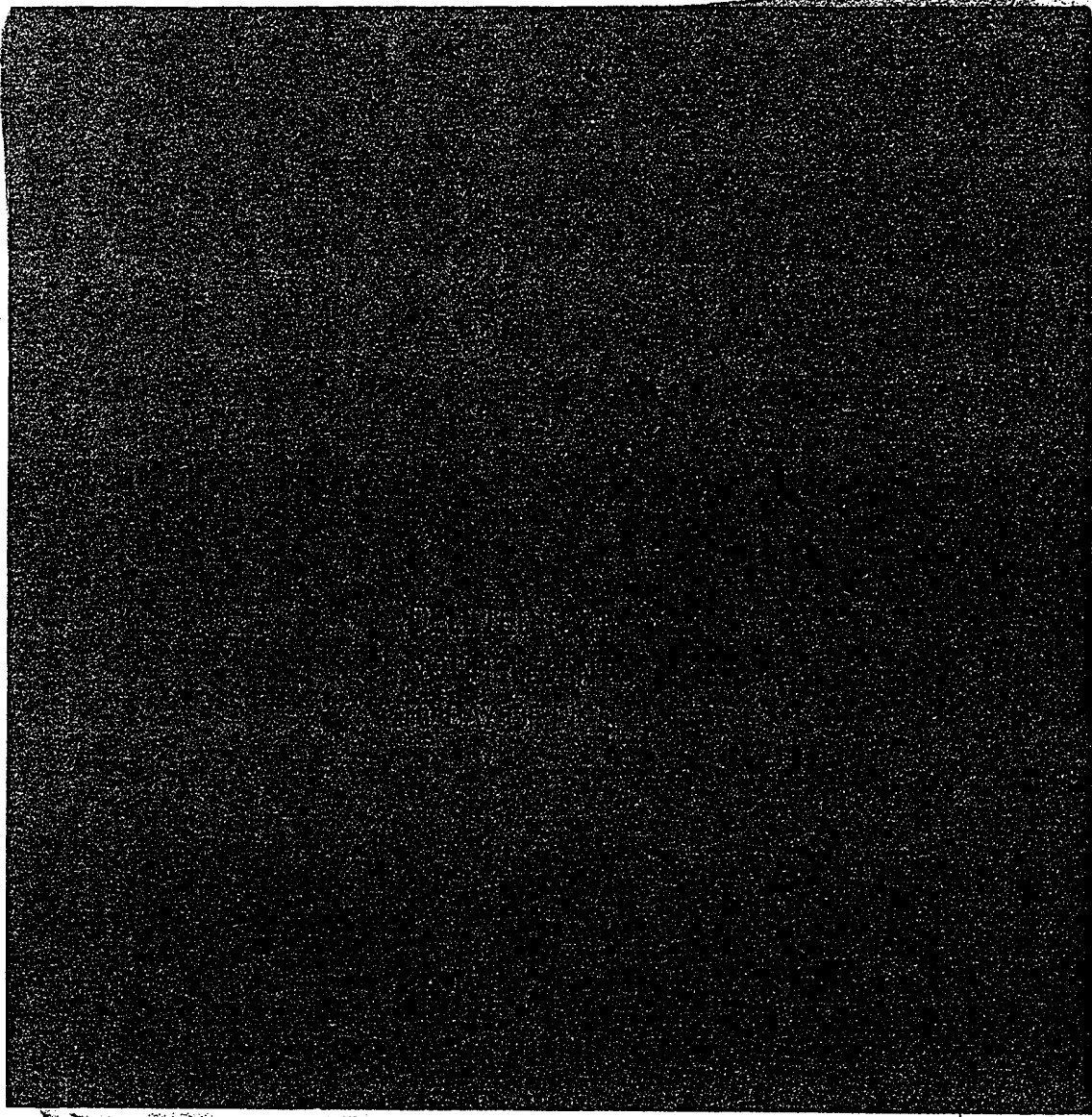
Fidel Castro's remarks in a long speech before a meeting of Cuban women on 23 August probably forecast Cuba's position of support for the Soviet Union on all issues at the UN General Assembly session which opens on 20 September, including support for the admission of Communist China. He said, "The imperialists must know..."

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that Cuba will no longer vote in the UN at the bidding of their index finger. We shall be the friends of the USSR and of the Chinese People's Republic because they have proved to be our friends, while the imperi-

alists attack us and want to destroy us." Last year Cuba was the first Latin American nation to abstain on the issue of Chinese Communist representation in the UN.



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