

Box 7 - Folder

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TO: [unclear]  
[unclear]

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1997

7 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSC Briefing, 7 April 1960

1. The following briefings were prepared:

- a. [redacted]
- b. [redacted]
- c. [redacted]
- d. [redacted]
- e. Cuba

2. The briefing, which was given by the DDCI this week, lasted about twenty-five minutes, including a short period of discussion. The DDCI used all of the briefing papers prepared, and used them in the order listed above.

THOMAS C. LAWLER

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## CUBA

- I. The Castro regime continues to further world Communist objectives in Latin America.
- A. Soviet, Chinese, Czech, and other Bloc delegates, as well as Communists from various Latin American countries, are now in Havana for the Fourth National Congress of the Youth Section of the Cuban Communist party.
1. This week-long congress, which opened on Monday, has been accorded TV time and other facilities by the regime.
- B. A preparatory meeting of the Communist-front Latin American youth Congress is scheduled for Havana on 25 April; arrangements for this are probably being made at the current Communist gathering.
1. A Cuban mission is now touring Latin America to publicize the preparatory meeting and inviting youth groups to attend.
  2. The head of the mission, Dr. Carlos Olivares (oh-lee-vär'es), is an official of Castro's "26th of July Movement" and a close associate of Raul Castro.
- C. The Youth Congress is only one of several such Latin American Communist efforts centered in Cuba.
1. A Latin American "Peace" Conference is planned for May or June in Cuba.
  2. Plans, but no date, have also been announced for "a great Latin American congress to create the apparatus to fight the common enemy, imperialism."
  3. A conference of "democratic political and intellectual leaders" of Latin America is planned for 30 April in Cuba, and this as well as the hemisphere labor meetings which are expected is almost certain to be Communist-dominated.
- [REDACTED]

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

II. Meanwhile, the trend continues toward closer economic and "cultural" ties with the Sino-Soviet bloc.

A. The trade and payments agreement signed with Poland on 31 March was supplemented by an agreement for technical cooperation, scientific assistance, and credit for the purchase of industrial equipment.

1. Items to be imported from Poland include helicopters, other aircraft, foundries, plants for the manufacture of cement and construction materials, and various types of machinery.

2. This followed the recently concluded trade agreements with the Soviet Union and East Germany.

3. [REDACTED] that Cuba is also negotiating with Hungary for delivery of 15 or 20 million dollars worth of machinery.

B. The first shipment of Russian crude oil is en route to Cuba, where it is to be processed in government-operated refineries.

1. The head of the government's petroleum organization has announced grandiose plans for a chain of government-operated gas stations using Soviet petroleum.

2. Plans have also been reported for eventual Cuban exports of petroleum products refined from Soviet crude.

a. These latter plans, seemingly over-ambitious at present, may be based on the expectation of taking over the Texaco refinery in Cuba which presently imports Venezuelan crude and exports various refined products.

C. Reportedly, some 70 Cubans "from all walks of life" will leave on 20 April for a tour of the USSR, and in return some 70 Russians will visit Cuba.

[REDACTED]

D. Also, a good source reports that a top Cuban Communist will shortly go to Moscow to "feel out" Soviet leaders on their willingness to make a military commitment to Cuba.

1. The purpose would be to help Castro resist the US military intervention which the Communists and some Cuban leaders claim to expect.

E. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the Cuban Foreign Ministry has authorized visas for 98 Chinese artists and that [REDACTED]

III. Domestically, the Castro regime is tightening its political controls.

A. Recent anti-Communist demonstrations by university students have evidently led Castro to step up his plans to dominate the universities and student groups.

1. In line with Castro's equating "anti-Communism" with "counterrevolution," the government-dominated leaders of the principal university student organizations have formed special courts to try students guilty of "counterrevolutionary crimes."

2. Meanwhile, Castro reportedly is now selecting 2,000 loyal students from rural areas to attend the university, at government expense; he plans to use these students as "shock troops" to assure control of the university.

IV. And as background for all these developments, the anti-US mouthings of Castro and others, as well as the personal vilification of President Eisenhower by Radio Mambi and other government-controlled outlets, go on, and on, and on, in a seemingly endless tirade.