

Free Cuba News

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FACT SHEET

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INSIDE LATIN AMERICA

CUBAN-SOVIET PENETRATION OF LATIN AMERICA

On November 3, 1963, Venezuela captured a cache of arms in its state of Falcón. Exactly one month later on December 3, Venezuela charged Cuba formally with having sent the arms -- three tons, valued at \$1 million -- to Castro-supported guerrillas who have attempted, through subversion and terror, over the past three years, to overthrow the regime of President Rómulo Betancourt. The Venezuelan delegate to the Organization of American States (OAS) asked that body to send an investigating team to substantiate its charges against Cuba. By a vote of 16 to 0, with an abstaining vote cast by Mexico, the OAS agreed to do so.

This most recent charge has a background of Castro-Communist subversion which extends back to the year 1960. The following account carries factual background information to that subversion.

Armed Forces Minister Raúl Castro and his wife, Vilma Espín de Castro, were the prime movers in bringing cadres of Latin Americans to Cuba for terrorist training and the teaching of Communist indoctrination and tactics. The second week of July of 1960, several hundred carefully picked foreign youths attended the "Preparatory Conference to the Conference of Latin American Youth" in Havana. Groups of teen-agers from 17 Latin American countries, from Canada, from the United States, and from East Germany, came to Havana at the expense of the Castro Government. They were sponsored by the Cuban Communist-led "Jóvenes Rebeldes" (Young Rebels), youths drafted into the organization from among the lower economic and social classes and the "resentidos" (resentful fringe).

Raúl Castro made the purpose of the meeting clear in his opening address. He said that Latin America must remove itself from the influence of "The American Eagle whose claws have been worn down from plundering its sister Republics." Also present at the gathering were official delegations from Soviet Russia, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Red China, and North Korea. Fidel Castro himself rose from a sick bed to address the meeting, using it as the platform for the first official announcement that his regime had expropriated the holdings of U.S. oil companies in Cuba. He told the group to look upon Cuba's expropriation as "an example for Latin America," with the not-so-subtle hint that they go and do likewise with American properties in their countries.

To the by-then familiar "Cuba si! Yankee no!" was added the chant: "Arriba, Abajo, los Yanquis son Guanajos!" ("From top to bottom, the Yankees are [stupid] turkeys"). A dance was held at the Hotel Nacional honoring Russia's space victories. By the end of 1960,

Havana was host to five other conferences of delegates: Latin American "workers," Latin American small farmers, Latin American women, Latin American teachers, and Latin American students. Cuban consulates and embassies processed applicants in various countries.

Just prior to the Youth Conference, former Spanish Republican (Communist) General Enrique Lister made his appearance in Cuba. Lister went to Russia following the victory of General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War. He also delivered to the Soviets most of Spain's negotiable assets, and its gold. A graduate of the Soviet Frunze Military Academy, and a fighter for the Soviets in World War II, Lister was given a role to play in Cuba, where he had lived as a boy and learned trade union politics from Cuba's old-line Communists. It was he who organized the groups of neighborhood informers in Cuba, "Committees For the Defense of the Revolution," to control the populace in their homes. They were given the right to enter without warrant, to search, to seize, and to withhold ration books from citizens on the slightest pretext.

Lister was given other tasks to perform as well. He, together with Castro's mentor, another former Spanish Republican General, Alberto Bayo, began to set up guerrilla instruction camps in Cuba to teach and train Latin American cadres pouring into Cuba from 1961 onward. Bayo trained Castro's forces in Mexico prior to their embarkation for Cuba where they landed on December 6, 1956.

Cuba's National Printing Office, made up principally of the confiscated newspapers Diario de la Marina, El Pais, Excelsior, and Diario Nacional, were put on an annual production budget of some 20 million pieces of literature. Virtually all of it was scheduled in Communist propaganda. Aside from the production of some Marxist text books for Cuba's schools, the bulk of the output consisted of pamphlets and booklets destined to support the Latin American cadres training in Cuba when they returned to subvert their governments.

Upon entering the guerrilla schools in Cuba, the trainees fill out an exhaustive questionnaire by which intelligence data is compiled about the particular regions in which they have lived. Questions search for the "reliability" of a local police force and the names and addresses of principal political leaders, together with any personal weaknesses which may make them targets for blackmail, and similar intelligence. Following collation of hundreds of such reports, under Soviet and Soviet-bloc direction, the materials are assembled and revised to fit a "battle plan" which forms the basis for study by the national cadres at the guerrilla schools who were recruited by Cuban embassies in Latin America.

In the fall of 1960, Cuba offered 10,000 paid "scholarships" to Latin American youth. In some cases, consulate members recruited openly. In 1961 El Salvador expelled members of the Cuban mission with the statement: "They were intermediaries and propaganda agents of anti-democratic doctrines and ideologies. They carried out tasks of agitation among labor and student groups." In July of that same year, Panama intercepted a Cuban Aero-postal plane which had attempted to smuggle 18 cartons of Soviet propaganda into Panama. Cuban Ambassador Cabrera protested that the shipment was under diplomatic protection. His protest was rejected by alert Panamanian officials on the grounds that there had been no prior request to extend diplomatic protection, adding that "the literature was classified as subversive under the laws of Panama." A similar incident occurred in Argentina.

On April 8, 1962, the Ecuadorian Government broke the back of a Castro-supported guerrilla operation in that country. Czechoslovakia's Quito legation was found to be turning over funds from the sale of Skoda trucks and other Iron Curtain products to the Ecuadorian Communist Party. Funds, propaganda, leaflets, and instructions were pouring into that country from the Communist operational base in Cuba. Ecuador broke relations with Cuba and with Czechoslovakia.

In coordination with Raul Castro's Conference of Latin American Youth, and the output of Cuba's National Printing Office, Bayo set up what probably was the first indoctrination and training center at Tarara Beach, some ten miles east of Havana. He moved the school into a large mansion, along with Soviet and Soviet-bloc instructors, and began training Cubans. They later were to be used as instructors for other international cadres. Soon, another 20 buildings were confiscated, and by early 1961 the trainees began to include so-called fellowship "students" from Latin America. Ousted Communist President of Guatemala, Colonel Jacob Arbenz, arrived in Cuba following several years of life behind the Iron Curtain. He first helped launch the propaganda offensive into Central America, began to establish training camps in Cuba's easternmost Oriente Province, and then became a leading member of the Latin American POLITBURO which sits in Havana and gives political direction to the terrorists. Lister took over and completed the training center at Minas del Frio in the mountains of Oriente.

The Organization of American States had this to say about the training centers in Cuba in a report issued July 5, 1963:

"Undoubtedly Cuba now constitutes the regional center for subversive action by international communism in America. This is true not only with regard to the spread of the communist ideology, but also, and what is more dangerous, because it constitutes a nearby center for training agents of every kind whose function it is to carry on subversion in the countries of the hemisphere.

"It is an obvious fact that as the communist regime became consolidated in Cuba, a number of schools and centers for training in the techniques of subversion were organized. A large number of Latin Americans attend these centers, where they receive instruction not only in Marxist-Leninist theory, but also in propaganda techniques, the use of arms and explosives, sabotage, guerrilla warfare, and so on, in order to apply them later on in their respective countries. The cadres of instructors in these schools are made up not only of Cubans and other Latin Americans, but also of Russians, Czechoslovakians, Chinese, and others.

"The fellowship program announced by Fidel Castro in his speech of June 9, 1961, [another program of fellowship] which included the granting of 1,000 fellowships for students of the various American countries, gives us an idea of how the Cuban communist regime has given primary importance to the indoctrination and training of American youths in communist techniques. It is estimated that at least 1,500 persons from the other American republics traveled to Cuba during 1962 for this purpose. Despite the limited means of transportation for travel to Cuba that exist today, trips to that country have been increasing in number during the current year.

"Concurrently with the systematic preparation of agents of communist subversion, a series of meetings, conferences and congresses, are being held in Cuba, attended by communist elements and sympathizers of this Hemisphere. The real purpose of those is to discuss plans, fix objectives, and issue directives that must be observed by the various groups, with respect to communist subversive action in every form.

"These congresses, conferences, and meetings bring together persons connected with the various fields of human activity: workers, students, intellectuals, athletes, etc.

"It is clear, then, that Cuba is being used as a base for training in communism and for the spread of communism in America.

"The nations that maintain normal and friendly relations recognize that it is desirable and even necessary to facilitate travel by their nationals across their borders as a means of strengthening ties. For this reason the number of documents needed for crossing international borders has been reduced, the period of validity of entry and departure permits has been extended, procedures for obtaining passports and other travel documents have been simplified, the necessity of securing visas has been removed, and the acquisition of foreign exchange has been facilitated.

"These facilities are utilized by communism so that its agents may circulate freely and in this way introduce propaganda and transfer the money needed in planning, encouraging, and directing subversion. It has already been pointed out in this connection that it is a matter of public knowledge that many individuals of communist tendencies travel to Cuba for various reasons connected with subversion. Cuba is also utilized as a point of departure for trips to the communist countries of Europe or Asia for the same purpose."

The years 1962 and 1963 represent the greatest effort by Communist Cuba and Soviet Russia to infiltrate the countries of Latin America and the United States with their techniques of subversion and terror. Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil were their chief targets in Latin America.

Just in January of 1963 alone, Cuba was a very active site of subversive activity. It hosted a World Conference of Women. Most were from Latin America. They were urged to return to their countries and carry out the "same fight you have seen here." In a manifesto issued at the end of the conference, it was agreed that the "role of the woman is the fight of the peoples for independence, sovereignty, and for peace." In Communist terminology -- subversion. Shortly thereafter, the newspaper "Ultima Hora" of the state of Parana in Brazil, said: "Five institutions of the state of Parana" were in accord with the conclusions of the Congress of Women. This was carried over Castro's Prensa Latina wires.

From January 17th through the 20th, Cuba "celebrated" the "fight of the Venezuelan people against the traitor Betancourt." At the commemoration of the death of Communist labor leader Jesús Menéndez, Raúl Castro addressed a mingled group of Latin Americans: "We will fight for unity within and without [Cuba] following the plan announced by Fidel. Today, the revolution marches to its goal, towards socialism, towards communism." The Cuban Federation of Labor, and its Secretary of External Affairs, met with labor leaders from Latin America. Addressing the group, to which delegates of the Congress of Women were also invited, old-line Communist Lázaro Peña said: "We fight not only for Cuba...." "... all of us Cuban workers are conscious that we are fighting for the total liberation of Latin America." He referred to the capture of Cuba by the Communist Party as "only the

first step." Odón Alvarez y de la Campa, Secretary of External Affairs of the Cuban Confederation of Labor, left for Algeria "where he will assist in the First Extraordinary Congress of the Workers Union of Algeria."

Meanwhile, the Cuban Young Communists organization played host to "children of other lands," among them representatives of some 1,000 Algerian children, and 3,000 Latin American youth, undergoing indoctrination and training.

The Latin American POLITBURO, which included U.S. citizen Robert Williams, decreed violence in the takeover of Latin America. Secretary General of the Brazilian Communist Party, Luis Carlos Prestes, was in Havana the latter part of February and the first two weeks of March of 1963.

In a characteristically candid interview in Revolución on March 2nd of this year, Prestes said: "In Brazil the communists have been working hard with the people to impress upon them the importance and significance of the Cuban Revolution." He had said earlier that the Russian and Chinese Communist revolutions were too far removed for them to apply to their own experience. Cuba provided that bridge of understanding for Latins.

He spoke of success in selling the Cuban Revolution in Brazil. He claimed in a separate interview that the Communists in Brazil had been able in less than three years (with the advent of Castro and Communism in Cuba) to "mobilize 600,000 people and integrate them into some 500 organizations throughout Brazil." Their "orientation was from Cuba." Said Prestes: "... Thanks to this work [mobilization and teaching based on Cuban Communism] the people of Brazil consider the Cuban Revolution the vanguard of the Brazilian Revolution and take their orientation on from it as much as they do from the government of President Goulart...." The Brazilian Communists -- through the example of Cuba -- were in a position to openly compete with the government of Brazil.

Speaking in another part of Havana, Brazilian Communist peasant leader Francisco Juliao provided other eye-opening comments. He dismissed "the yelps of President Kennedy" as the raspings of a paper tiger. He said that Communism in Cuba had destroyed the myth of strength and invincibility with which the United States had traditionally been viewed by the people of Latin America.

Much of Luis Carlos Prestes' strength came from the fact that he is a professional military man. He commanded great respect among the Brazilian military for his exploits in the interior of Brazil in the 1920's. He extended his contacts within the military over the past quarter century. It was not until Castro and Cuban Communism came along, however, that the full force of these contacts burgeoned. Prestes has stood for expanding Communism in Brazil from a legal base. With the ascendance of [an ideologically confused and dangerous] Joao Goulart to the Presidency, the Party made moves to challenge government authority. Prestes was able to point with pride to what had been accomplished.

When Mr. Kennedy instituted the blockade of Cuba, Goulart and his government publicly supported it. When he withdrew it, however, the situation changed radically. In early November of 1962 one of the three caretaker ministers who opposed the assumption to the presidency of Goulart, Admiral Silvio Heck, was taken into custody for supporting the U.S. blockade. Said Heck: "From the time when I was Minister of the Navy [under

Quadros], I have demonstrated alarm over Communist infiltration. My warnings over the position of Brazil in relation to the continent of America, Russia and Cuba, have been completely confirmed by the admission of Fidel Castro that he had always been a Marxist-Leninist, and by the revelation of Khrushchev that he had installed military bases in Cuba." Ten admirals signed a petition denouncing Communist infiltration in the armed forces.

The Communist infiltration in the Brazilian government -- "through the moral support and political orientation provided by the Cuban Revolution" -- was strong. Prestes spoke of the "Continental Congress of Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution." It was to be held in Brazil just a few weeks after his trip to Cuba where he said:

"We can count on having present [at the Congress] important national figures of Brazil. Among them the governor of the state of Pernambuco, Miguel Arraiz; Mauro Borges, governor of the State of Goias; Congressional leaders such as Almino Alfonso, who now is Minister of Labor; Senators such as Vasconcelos Torres, and many Generals of the Army such as Luis González Leites who is President of the Preparatory Committee for the Congress."

On March 20th, the Brazilian government sent out instructions to all its Embassies. The instructions, according to broadcasts over Havana Radio C.M.Q., were "to extend all facilities to delegations which planned to attend the Continental Congress of Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution." "All representatives in Latin America can have access to come to Brazil [meaning all Communists]." This was official endorsement of the anti-American and pro-Communist meeting. Goulart's Press Secretary Raul Riff stated on March 23rd, that the Brazilian government would neither impede nor assist that anti-American Congress. Washington observers found Riff's statement an apparent attempt to neutralize press accounts in this country regarding Brazil's affiliation with the anti-American conference. Also, Brazil's Foreign Minister S. Francisco Dantas was in the United States at that very moment negotiating another \$399 million loan from us.

Nevertheless, Soviet Ambassador to Brazil, Andrei Fromin, immediately offered Russian support and encouragement to President Goulart for his "demonstrated sympathy with the Cuban revolution." The National Review of April 9, 1963 quoted Dantas: "The lack of development in our nation... has been determined in great part by the exploitive process. Foreign aid should be considered as a means of indemnity for damages caused."

By Prestes' account, Communist members of Goulart's government at that time included Prime Minister Hermes Lima, Education Minister Darcy Ribeiro, Joao Mangabeira, Labor Minister Almino Alfonso and Presidential Secretary Raul Riff.

The Prestes-supported governor of Goias knew of guerrilla camps to be set up in his state. In case the legal extension of Communism in Brazil should founder, Prestes knows what a guerrilla war carried out in the interior of the country would do to Brazil's shaky economy. In December of 1962, Brazilian police intercepted Czech arms and 200 nylon tents sent from Cuba destined for the interior of Brazil. They were marked as machinery. These same authorities confirmed the existence of guerrilla training camps in the state of Goias, and linked all of these activities to Francisco Juliao. Juliao candidly admitted it, saying: "The arms are for poor defenseless peasants living in the

state of Goias. "Inflammatory pamphlets, printed in Cuba, also were found. So were copies of "Che" Guevara's handbook on how to carry out a guerrilla war and undermine governments. These disclosures were dismissed by President Goulart as of "little importance."

The Castro-Soviet found them to be of considerable importance, however. A first-hand account of training and transmitting subversives to Latin America was given by a Cuban. Lt. Noel Salas Santos, former commander of the guerrilla training camp at San Julián military base in Pinar del Rio Province, provided interesting details. Salas broke with Castro, took asylum in the Brazilian Embassy, and came out of Cuba in a mass release of asylees. In an interview in Miami, Salas said:

"Five groups of Latin American nationals received guerrilla warfare training at a base under my command the last few months of 1961. There were 37 Brazilians, 70 Mexicans, 42 Puerto Ricans, 19 Chileans, and 18 Argentinians whom we smuggled into Mexico by small boats. I personally accompanied one of the groups to Arroyo de Mantua on the Cuban coast and saw them off on the fishing craft Jorge. "The chief of the Latin American guerrilla training program is Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara. He signs orders and instructions, and visited our base three times in 1961. The coordinator of training activities of the various national groups is Major Manuel Pineiro. Pineiro is a major figure of the State Security Political Police. He sees to it that national groups are separated by nationality, members given false names, and that no written records are kept [of their activities]."

There was other traffic to and from Cuba, as well. Countries in Latin America who still maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba are used as way stations by which Soviet, Soviet-bloc, and Cuban agents are transported throughout Latin America and behind the Iron Curtain.

Flight manifests of Cubana Airlines, the official Cuban air-carrier, show that during the first eight months of 1962, a total of 3,447 persons traveled to Cuba via Mexico on that airline alone. The great majority -- 2,090 -- were Latin Americans.

The Latin Americans included: 443 Mexicans, 435 Cubans, 229 Hondurans, 229 Argentinians, 126 Chileans, 122 Uruguayans, 80 Brazilians, 78 Panamanians, 47 Costa Ricans, 27 Paraguayans, 15 Colombians, 14 Nicaraguans, 7 Venezuelans, and 2 Dominicans.

Also among the passengers who used Mexico as a gateway to Cuba were 99 Americans and 81 Canadians. Those who came to Cuba from Russia and the satellite countries as agents for those countries totalled 265.

Also plying the Mexico-Cuba run was the Mexican carrier, Mexicana de Aviación, which by agreement made approximately the same number of flights per week in 1962 as Cubana. Additional numbers of Latin Americans -- and presumably Iron Curtain citizens -- reach Cuba through other means. There is now a direct flight from Moscow to Havana. And Cubana itself flies from other points in Latin America, as well as Mexico, and from Europe.

Venezuela provided a good example of the tactics of the all-out attack.

Old-line Communist, Blas Roca, addressed a large delegation of Latin American Communists. The date was January 23, 1963. He made it clear that Venezuela was the

most immediate target of Communist designs. He said: "When Venezuela achieves victory, when it has wrested free from imperialism, when it is in control of its fabulous riches, of its oil fields, then America will be aflame, all of America will advance, all of America will liberate itself at once from the imperialist yoke. All of the peoples are today together in the fight for liberty and sovereignty, in the fight to finish off imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and whatever forms are adopted for oppression and exploitation by the imperialist regimes!" Roca spelled out the purpose of the Communist beach head in Cuba when he said: "The victory of Venezuela will give us tremendous support, and we no longer will be the solitary island in the Caribbean confronting the imperialist Yankees, but will have a continent of support." Roca's daring statement was less remarkable for its having been made than for the renewed Communist vigor following the missile crisis. It also provides irrefutable proof of Communist designs for the continent and the role of leadership assigned to Cuba.

Prior to this, in 1961 and 1962, Venezuela was rocked with major revolts so strong that they required the commitment of major elements of Venezuela's armed forces. Cuba figured heavily in these attacks, and Radio Havana openly beamed messages to that country that President Betancourt would be overthrown by the fall of 1962. On October 2nd armed bands of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left assaulted the town of El Hatillo, only 13 kilometers from Caracas. According to government accounts, they used the same tactics as those of Fidel Castro in 1958. The armed group, according to a news despatch, "wore berets like those of the Cuban militia." A Cuban Army Major, Máximo Canales, was parachuted into Venezuela to assume charge of the terrorists.

At the height of the Cuban crisis, Communist saboteurs struck Venezuelan oil fields, cutting down oil production by 525,000 barrels a day. The Venezuelan government charged that orders to the saboteurs were radioed from Havana. It claimed to have intercepted the message. This was followed by the mobilization of the armed forces, "In view of the proof that Cuba was converted into a Soviet base of projectiles and atomic missiles." Further proof, if needed, of official Cuban complicity in Communist terrorist attacks in Venezuela was provided by Fidel Castro during "an act of solidarity with the Venezuelan people," the same month of January, 1963. Said Castro: "While the Argentines and Santo Domingans sent their ships to blockade us, the people [i.e. terrorists] of Venezuela fought, directed by the glorious Communist Party of Venezuela and by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, giving proof to the imperialists of what solidarity really is... they don't sit still." Terrorist acts in Venezuela were lauded as "in accord with the international plans of Marxism-Leninism, provoking disorders and raising popular support for the Cuban regime." Rómulo Betancourt dismissed 740 teachers and professors because of their Communist antecedents.

The importance to the Communists in possessing a Latin American Base for war is reflected in the statement of a captured leader of the so-called Liberation Army in Venezuela. He said: "Our fight is only a small contribution to the continental battle that is being carried out against stupid American imperialism and oligarchies, and Cuba is our example." This slogan is repeated by old-line Latin American Communists from Rio Plata to Panama. But Cuba is considerably more than an example. In 1962 the Venezuelan army first uncovered arms which were of Czechoslovakian make, and bayonets were inscribed, "The Cuban Army." Similar caches were uncovered in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Central America.

West European diplomats stationed in Havana and countries in Latin America, state that Russian fishing trawlers and submarines deliver arms and incendiaries to Venezuela and Brazil through British Guiana.

Castro stated publicly that he would "turn the cordillera of the Andes into the Sierra Maestra of Latin America." An issue of the Cuban military magazine, Verde Olivo in January, 1963, indicated how supplies and arms are introduced into the mountains of South America. It published a picture of paratroopers descending from an Ilyushin transport in the province of Pinar del Rio. They were called "special troops," and the description sounded like that of our own Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. They are trained under the direction of Czech Army Major Policev and a group comprised of Russian non-coms.

Jerry Robichaud, Latin American specialist for the Chicago Daily News, said: "The evidence appears clear that in Venezuela, at least, the youthful bands in the hills have received Cuban arms and ammunition, as well as indoctrination in guerrilla tactics outlined in Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's handbook... there is reason to assume that the young Ecuadorians were encouraged [as well] to undertake their operations on the understanding that they would soon get first-class arms from the Communist arsenal in Cuba."

Related to Robichaud's estimates, in February of 1963 guerrillas in Venezuela had holed-up in the mountains to the south of the state of Falcon from which for weeks the government had been trying to dislodge them. The Venezuelan air force bombarded the area, located some 300 kilometers to the West of Caracas. Accounts of travellers from the area indicated that the guerrillas were well supplied and organized. The number was estimated at 400 or more.

The Venezuelan Ministry of the Interior issued blunt notice of Cuban Communist intrigue. "The terrorist plan follows instructions from Cuba to all the countries of the Caribbean to create chaos and try to ruin our economy."

From October of 1962 until November of 1963, Venezuela sustained no fewer than 116 acts of violence. They ranged from the high-jacking of a Venezuelan vessel and an airplane to the looting and burning of U.S. holdings and the attempted assassination of President Rómulo Betancourt and aspirants to the presidency of that country. On November 4, 1963, Castro-supported terrorists blew up a vital American-owned oil pipeline from Maracaibo for the eighth time in 18 months, just one day following the discovery of a Cuban arms cache in Venezuela's Falcon State.

It was the discovery of the three-ton arms cache, valued at \$1 million, that prompted Venezuela to press charges in the Organization of American States on December 3. Just prior to this, Betancourt stated that Castro Communists must be eliminated from the Hemisphere. His reaction stemmed, apparently, from the fact that serial numbers and "Army of Cuba" seals had been filed off some of the Belgian-made weapons, but were revealed through treatment with acid. A small aluminum boat was found on the shore, from which the arms had been transferred, either from a Russian submarine or from Cuban or Russian fishing trawlers. In a related development, U.S. Lt. Col. James K. Chenault, was kidnapped "for propaganda purposes." Chenault was deputy to the U.S. military mission in Caracas.

Though the Venezuelan election was carried out on December 1 despite the activities

of the Castro terrorists, the battle is not won. The new President, Raúl Leoni, faces a country torn with civil strife. He will not take office until March, and the Communist regime of Fidel Castro is unrelenting in its attack on Venezuela and other countries south of our borders.

Said 'Che' Guevara on November 24:

"Venezuela and Guatemala have already begun (the final phases) of a fight that has been carried on for four years. In Venezuela you can already see the results of the action of the people against the dictatorship of Rómulo Betancourt [the chaos wrought by terrorists]. So, likewise, we will also see in many countries of Latin America how the revolutionary flame lights itself when there is no other way to escape imperialist domination. And the imperialists are not now leaving any other road open but that of the battle of the peoples."

Guevara added a significant passage, which makes it plain that Cuba is behind the so-called action of the people: "All this is also our responsibility, since our victory will be the victory of all, the fight of all is our responsibility and a part of our social concern. The fortune of the patriots that fight in each one of the countries of America against imperialist oppression, colonial or neo-colonial is also our problem."

Underscoring the forward movement of Latin American subversion, Havana's Radio Progreso described Fidel Castro's address at a meeting of "scholarship" students on November 27 thus:

"Fidel noted that there will never be too many technicians and doctors, because when there are revolutions in Latin America and in other countries they will ask aid from our own technicians and doctors, and we will send them this aid...."

On December 6, 1963, Radio Havana announced that Cuban guerrilla forces had established "six operational zones" in the mountains of the Dominican Republic, pronouncing them a "good foothold." They reportedly are led by "The Fourteenth of June Movement," a pro-Castro group that took its name from the date of the first abortive Castro invasion of the Dominican Republic June 14, 1959.

It has been held in some writings that Castro's subversion and terror of Latin America is at variance with the post-missile crisis policy of "coexistence" pronounced by Premier Khrushchev. However, Soviet and Soviet-bloc experts have either taken over or are supervising Cuba's intelligence services, and are in virtual control of the country. By early 1963, Cuba had been turned into a tool of Soviet foreign policy. Few, if any, activities are carried out independently of Soviet supervision and control. This is evident in correspondence relating to subversion.

The following letterhead states "The U.S.S.R. Committee of Youth Organizations. Moscow, Kropotkin Street No. 10. Telephone G6-33-83, G6-84-02."

What is pertinent about the letter (a verbatim translation) is that it reveals the use of Cuban and Russian embassies and official channels for the purpose of subverting Latin America. It is written to a functionary of the Cuban "Young Communists," the same

organization which was known as the "Young Rebels" back in 1960, and accents the Communist designs on foreign youth.

КОМИТЕТ МОЛОДЕЖНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ СССР

Москва, ул. Кропоткина, 10.

Телефон Г 6-33-83, Г 6-84-02

February 11, 1963.

Mr. Aldo Alvarez,
Cuban Communist League, Union of Young Communists
Paseo de Martí No. 257
Havana, Cuba

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

We acknowledge receipt of your communication of February 6, in which you inform us about the constitution of the Preparatory Committee of the Second Latin American Youth Congress, and that said Committee is already active in Santiago de Chile.

Reports obtained through our Embassy indicate that the Government of the Republic of Chile has received with coolness the news regarding the holding of said Congress; but we are doing everything possible to obtain better cooperation in a high level. In the meantime, it is necessary for the Preparatory Committee to work in coordination with your Embassy, in order to secure a better effectiveness in the propaganda campaign.

Attached you will find the directives for the working up of the Agenda, and you will note therein a change as compared with what we discussed in Helsinki, the past August, during the VIII World Youth and Students Festival, for Peace and Friendship. These amendments respond to the necessary elasticity in the policy to be followed after comrade Khrushchev succeeded in containing the warmongering aspirations of Yankee Imperialism, thus saving the brave Cuban people from the dangers of invasion.

Keep us informed of the steps which are being followed from your end, in order to secure an efficient coordination and to establish contact with comrade Ivashov, from our Embassy in Havana, so as to solve any urgent matter which may arise.

In sending you the congratulations of our Committee for the successful work which you are conducting, we urge you to continue in the struggle until final liberation of the peoples subjected by the North American Imperialist reaction.

(Sgd.) P. Réshetov

P. Réshetov,
President of the Soviet Organizing Commission

Even the United States and its possessions have not been immune from Castro infiltration. In 1961, hand bills were distributed in Miami, Tampa, and Clearwater, Florida. They called upon people "to be ready to attend flash meetings," and to "uphold the first Socialist revolution in this Hemisphere." It was signed on behalf of Fidel Castro and the Socialist Revolution of the World. At about the same time, Castro agents and sympathizers delivered copies of Castro's official news organ, Revolución, to the doorsteps

of Miami's Spanish-speaking community, along with other propaganda fodder from Cuba. A United States postal ruling later put a stop to the introduction of Castro propaganda materials into the United States. However, chapters of the Castro-supported "Fair Play for Cuba" group sprang up in some sections of this country, in some instances to fill the vacuum of imported propaganda with locally produced and edited materials. One such chapter was organized among the Spanish-speaking community of Ybor City, a section of Tampa, and produced a bi-lingual newsletter called "Tampa Fair Play." The Tampa Times carried the following article on November 10, 1961 regarding the chapter:

"PRO-CASTRO LEAFLETS HANDED OUT HERE

"The Fair Play Committee for Cuba handed out 5,000 pro-Castro leaflets in Tampa recently, its local leader has advised the Times.

"V. T. Lee, president of the FPCC's Tampa chapter, added that 2,500 of the leaflets -- asking Americans to protest a planned invasion of Cuba -- were handed out in the Miami area.

"This distribution coincided with another leaflet (1,400 copies) especially worded and delivered to the Afro-American community in Miami and covering the same subject," Lee wrote.

"We are a very open group and all our endeavors are public," Lee said, in offering information to the Times on his chapter's activities.

"The nationwide Fair Play Committee for Cuba has been under investigation by the Internal Security Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary for alleged Communist links."

Perhaps the greatest effort by the Castro subversive machine has been directed towards luring American youth to Cuba just as Latin American cadres are recruited.

While the President, Congress, and responsible Negro and White civic groups in the United States struggle for legislation to solve the civil rights problem, Communist Cuba attempts to extract from it the greatest possible advantage.

The illegal trip to Cuba last July of 59 American "students" provided the tools needed to exploit social problems. Invitations sent initially to groups whose leadership is ideologically suspect have since been extended to others. Some are willing accomplices; others are unwary dupes.

Two examples to subvert democratic processes in the United States are revealed in radio interviews in Havana -- one with a U.S. student; another with a "Herbert Mohamed." Washington officials identified Herbert Mohamed, who resides in Mexico, as the son of the leader of the Black Muslims.

Radio Progreso Havana:

"American student Larry Phelps, one of the group of comrades visiting us, states that a Marxist-Leninist Party is being organized in the United States. He added that it only remained to follow what Fidel recommended in his speech to begin the battle, to do what

they could, and await the results.

"Phelps continued, saying that none of the existing American political parties really satisfied the responsible people of the United States. That is the reason the 'Party of the Progressive Workers' has arisen and is now in the process of being formed on the ideological base of Marxism-Leninism."

"He explained," said Radio Progreso, "that his political grouping is being directed by Milton Rosen, a steel worker who was organizing secretary of the American Communist Party."

Phelps then went on to discuss "the corruption of union organisms led by their national officers," according to the radio broadcast. Led into a discussion of Castro's major propaganda barrage, Phelps discussed the planned march of Negroes on Washington August 28 in these terms:

"He said that the Negro march scheduled for August 28 in Washington was being made to challenge the political power of the government...."

Said a C.M.Q. radio announcer:

"Among those visitors was Herbert Mohamed, who said that the Negro citizens of his country do not yet have a clear view of the Cuban revolution, as a result of twisted press propaganda, but that his presence in Cuba has permitted him to verify the truth about the revolutionary process. He added that in spite of the curtain that the news agencies at the service of the monopolies try to maintain in the case of Cuba, the American people feel admiration and respect for the Cubans who fight for their independence and for the construction of Socialism."

At a meeting with "Che" Guevara on August 2, 1963, one of the American students read an Associated Press dispatch quoting President Kennedy that he believed some of the "students" to be Communists. Radio Progreso reported the incident in these terms:

"The American students were hilarious over the A.P. dispatch, stating that: 'this is more proof of the political infamy of the Yankee Chief Executive.'" A Phillip Abbott was also quoted on Havana radio C.M.Q. to the effect that "The Cuban Revolution has made notable advances in education, housing, and the development of industry and agriculture. Worms are worms [word used to describe anti-Castro Cubans] whether they have left Cuba [as exiles] or are in the Department of State of the United States."

Another "student" said that "the Cuban Revolution ought to serve as an example for all the Latin American countries and that the social changes are not going to come to them miraculously, but must be brought about by revolution as quickly as possible. Above all, with a Socialist Latin America it will be easier to make a revolution in the United States."

As early as January of 1959, Fidel Castro wooed Puerto Rican nationalists. During a press conference, he personally lauded nationalist Pedro Albizu Campos -- a slightly demented tool of anti-American groups. He was in a mental institution, and Castroites made the most of it. Revolución in 1959 published the science-fiction story that he was kept in an unbalanced state deliberately by some mysterious ray administered from time to time "by agents of the FBI."

In 1959, Communist agitators were dispatched to Puerto Rico from Havana -- among them five members of Revolución who had never in their lives written a story. They were refused visas, but returned to the Embassy bearing diplomatic passports which our consular section honored. They went to Ponce, not to San Juan, the focal point of news. The background of these men was the background of subversion, civic resistance, and terror. They had belonged to Castro's civic resistance movement in the city of Matanzas in 1958, and they were known Communists.

Judge Antonio Andian Elias sentenced two Puerto Ricans for trafficking in smuggled arms "evidently destined for leftist subversives, probably of communist persuasion." The arms came from Cuba. Sabotage and subversion increased to the amazement of a comfortable officialdom. Cane fields were burned with live phosphorus, also brought in from Cuba. Helicopters were actually dispatched to the area around Ponce in late 1962 to guard against cane burnings by groups of subversives.

On March 21, 1963, the Puerto Rican police cracked down. The press stated that they carried out a search for arms and "home-made anti-personnel bombs and incendiaries manufactured by subversive elements in contact with the government of Cuba." The bombs were manufactured from the teachings of "Che" Guevara's book and that of Alberto Bayo. Large amounts of arms were found in San Juan, and an undisclosed number of leaders were arrested. In June, 1963, the Federal Investigation Office in San Juan admitted that Puerto Rico was being used as a base of infiltration from Cuba through ostensible Cuban exiles. They traveled between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic on clandestine Communist business. Police tracked a member of Castro's secret service to a job he held in the Ministry of Public Works, only to find that he had been warned and had fled. He had been transmitting information on U.S. military bases in Puerto Rico to Cuba and to the Soviet high command in Havana.

A Freedom House Report of last May observes that time is a vital factor. It is clear that there are hopeful, democratic forces at work, but they are in a deadly race with destructive, totalitarian forces. Decisive to the outcome will be the length of time it takes to dislodge not only the Soviet and Soviet-bloc troops but Communism itself from Cuba. The mere survival of the Castro regime is in itself a defeat for democracy. It strengthens the Communists in other Latin American countries and creates an image of Communist invincibility. It encourages a trend towards neutralism, already pronounced in some countries, with increasing numbers of Latin Americans saying, "If the United States is willing to tolerate or co-exist with a Communist Cuba, why shouldn't we?" We have also seen how our apparent lack of leadership has led to a trend toward military junta takeovers.

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INSIDE CUBA

RED CHINA TRADE ON THE RISE AS SOVIETS SHIP ARMAMENTS

Elias Rivero Bello, a communications chief for Cuba's state-controlled merchant traffic, Lineas Mambises, states that Red Chinese commercial trade with Cuba is on the rise with Russian shipping diverted to military cargoes. Although Red China has only two ships in direct trade with Cuba, its products are reaching Havana in ships of British registry manned by crews from Hong Kong. The two Red Chinese ships are "Shien Foon"

and "Ho Fun." The British-chartered ships most often plying the China-Cuba route are identified by Rivero Bello as the "Macao," "East Breeze," "West Breeze," and the "Suva Breeze." Rivero Bello was in charge of the teleprinters which handled clearance messages for all ship traffic to and from Cuba. He fled Cuba the end of November of this year.

The highly publicized offer of Russian aid following hurricane "Flora" has failed to materialize, according to Rivero Bello. "For some time," he said, "those that do arrive bring only 'special cargoes,' and food and supplies for Soviet and Soviet-bloc troops on the island. Also, food purchased ostensibly for the Cuban people from Canada, Spain, England, and other countries is exclusively for those same Soviet-bloc troops and personnel."

There is the suspicion that the Russians are again introducing strategic weapons into Cuba. The "special cargoes," states Rivero Bello, "are unloaded in the greatest secrecy, and not even the Cuban Communists are permitted near them. All are unloaded, transported, and stored by Soviet personnel."

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ANOTHER YEAR ANOTHER FAILURE

It has been a Castro practice to name each year after a certain project or commemoration:

- 1959. Year of Liberation -- The Cuban Journalist Guild, and the Cuban Confederation of Labor, both fell under Communist domination, thus paving the way for Communist control of the country.
- 1960. Year of the Agrarian Reform -- Estates, even small farms, were seized and made into cooperatives and collectives. The guajiros (peasants) got nothing.
- 1961. Year of Education -- The Communist Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI) openly took over education and directed it towards Marxist indoctrination.
- 1962. Year of Planification -- Sugar production fell by more than two million tons, and 30% of Cuba's industries were closed.
- 1963. Year of Organization -- In 1963 government organization virtually collapsed in the face of bureaucracy and worker absenteeism, and Soviet and Soviet-bloc troops poured into the Island.
- 1964. Year of Economy -- This may turn out to be the only year which has been accurately described. Castro will have to economize on everything. In fact, he has stated that what is left of the sugar crops and other export items will be consumed at home rather than exported. This is the most critical year, since it must bear the accumulation of errors, government bungling, peasant sabotage and worker resistance over the previous five-year period.

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CZECH-CUBAN FRICTIONS RISE

Conversations monitored from the official internal radio network reveal considerable Cuban exasperation with Czech technicians. A post in Las Villas communicated to Havana on October 23 as follows:

"To Carlos Pages. I received your telegram where you indicate that I must await the arrival of the Czech technicians but [you] do not give me the slightest idea of when they will arrive. It is necessary that they come as rapidly as possible in order for me to return to Havana where my work is accumulating. One of the machines suffered damage when it was moved from the place, because the crate fell apart. For this reason it is even more necessary to have the Comrade Czechs here. I expect that you will respond in the shortest possible time."

Eight days later Havana answered, saying:

"All you have to do is solve the problem with the Czechs first."

The reluctance of the Czechs to go to work in Las Villas created considerable annoyance among the Cubans who have been made to work day and night following the hurricane.

The colloquy between Havana and Las Villas Provinces continued into November but did not "solve the problem with the Czechs." Finally, the Las Villas official exploded:

"It is impossible to get anything across to Havana. I am not going to sign any papers without authorization nor act as a monkey [for the Czechs] The Czechs have not consulted us Cubans about anything, and they want to inspect everything that we have done. We [the Cubans] are in charge here, but we have nothing to work with. The Czechs have contributed nothing, and we know that piping and tanks in Santa Clara are under the supervision of those same Czechs, and [they] will not release them."

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