

Free Cuba News

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INSIDE CUBA

RECEIVED

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BOB DOLE

AUTOMATIC WEAPONS TAKEN FROM CASTRO MILITIA

The Russian military are relieving Castro's militia of their automatic weapons, according to reliable reports reaching Free Cuba News. One hundred militiamen were disarmed and replaced by Russian soldiers recently at Matahambre copper mines, in Pinar del Rio Province. This follows on the heels of other reports indicating that the militia may no longer be considered the military bulwark of the Cuban Communist regime.

Who ordered the disarming? The Soviet military high command.

High-ranking Russian officers have recently been placed in command of key military bases of the Cuban Army, among them La Cabana, Managua, San Antonio de los Banos, and San Julian.

Said a former militiaman who escaped from Cuba:

"The Russian move is an effort to forestall any attempted uprisings by the militia. Most of the militiamen are suspect, and units of doubtful loyalty are armed only with antiquated equipment."

The escaped militiaman revealed that many militia units were relieved of ammunition during the October crisis. "Castro didn't want to put too much strain on their loyalty," he added ironically.

Civilian eyewitnesses bear out the militiaman's statements. For example, automobile mechanic Jacinto Fernandez, from Ciego de Avila, Camaguey Province, reports:

"The Russian military look with disdain on the Cuban militia, saying that they are not good fighters. I witnessed several incidents that took place between Russians and the militia. I have personally overheard the militia complain loudly and bitterly against the Russian overlords. I heard one say: 'The trucks filled with fruit and meat drive into the Russian bases. They have good clothing, food, and lack nothing. We are short of everything, and are required to live off the country.'"

Another eyewitness, a 54 year-old fisherman from Cardenas named Juan Sanchez,

related to Free Cuba News:

"The militia are subordinated entirely to the Russian soldiers. I have seen Russian soldiers wearing Cuban militia and Army uniforms in the city of Matanzas. They are assuming control of everything in the country."

#

CUBA INDUSTRY NOW FAR BEHIND LATIN AMERICA'S

Cuba has dropped from fifth place, to "somewhere between tenth and fifteenth" place in Latin American industrial production since the Castro takeover, says the former auditor of the Cuban Ministry of Industry, Dr. Andres Ordone Campos. The industrial expert, who worked under Minister Ernesto "Che" Guevara until his escape from Cuba in April, stated:

"Cuba, with only 6,000,000 population, was number five in industrial production in Latin America before Castro. Today, we must be somewhere between tenth and fifteenth."

What about the big injections of economic and industrial aid by the Soviet bloc?

"Red industries brought to Cuba are pitifully few," reports Dr. Ordone Campos, "and there is no plan to integrate them into Cuban production requirements."

Furthermore, the Soviets are shipping into Cuba industries that are "based on raw materials which Cuba doesn't have and has never imported."

On the other hand, observes the former Ministry of Industry auditor, industries that once prospered have run down under Communism. He cited this example:

"When the State took over the Coca Cola factory in Cuba, the company had developed it into an \$8-million investment including property and plant facilities. By 1962, it was worth only \$2 million."

Plants and industrial facilities built in Cuba over the pre-Castro decades are now being "cannibalized" for parts, Dr. Ordone Campos continues. Nor does he believe that the downward industrial trend in Cuba can be halted.

"The regime cannot seem to halt the decline in industry, and the limited replacement factories brought in by the Soviet bloc are useless to Cuban production."

Perhaps the biggest impact has been felt in the sugar industry. Declares Dr. Ordone Campos flatly:

"The sugar industry is in chaos. Cuba will probably produce less than three million tons this year."

That is about half the 5,610,000 tons produced in 1958, the year before Castro came to power.

"The principal reason for the reduction is the steadfast refusal of the guajiros [peasants] to cut sugar cane," the former Minister of Industry official explained. "They are the real heroes of Cuba today."

Other factors contributing to the failure are the lack of replacement parts for the sugar mill machinery, the poor condition of rail transport (aggravated by extensive sabotage) and the incompetence of Government mill administrators, Dr. Ordono Campos said.

Communist Cuba's chief economic planner and veteran Red, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who also heads the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, made a speech on June 8 which, in effect, substantiates Ordono Campos' description of the state of the economy.

"We must re-examine the planning carried out by the State," declared Rodriguez. "There is chaos to which we must direct our attention."

Rodriguez's prescription for ending the chaos and increasing production? "Those who work badly will be punished, and the managers had better remember that."

But how the slavemaster's knout can make slaves restore a once-advanced economy to its former eminence, Communist Cuba's economic theoretician did not explain.

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CASTRO READYING 'HUNGARY' TREATMENT FOR CUBA

Castro is prepared to use the full military might of the Soviets to drown any uprising in blood, a la Hungary, according to new Cuban arrivals in this country. A former member of the Castro police, Ramon Federico Monagas, reports that he was told by his battalion commander:

"If there is a popular uprising here, we will employ the same tactics used in 1956, in Hungary. The only way to secure ourselves is through the use of absolute power."

The decision to resort to the "Hungary" treatment, if necessary, was made toward the end of 1961 after an extensive military critique of the Bay of Pigs fighting, according to Monagas. It was then decided to employ intimidation and terror on a wholesale basis, and "to shoot down immediately anyone who hesitated to collaborate with the revolutionary government."

But it was a decision dictated by fear on the part of the Castro regime, Monagas told Free Cuba News. "For the cold reality, openly admitted and discussed by the military commanders, is that the Cuban people, particularly the guajiros, are in active opposition to the Government."

The Government, he continues, was shocked at what was turned up in the Bay of Pigs critique. It found that "guajiros and fishermen not only refused to fight the invaders, but actually collaborated with them."

On April 18, the day after the invaders landed, more than 500 sugar workers and guajiros gathered at the nearby sugar mill, Australia, and from there marched to join the invasion force. They were cut off by Stalin tanks.

"Hundreds paid for that effort with their lives," relates Monagas, the former policeman.

Two former militiamen who have escaped from Cuba in a small boat support Monagas' story. They believe that Russian troops are still in Cuba for the express purpose of quelling an uprising. Their information, corroborating previous reports published here, is that Soviet military forces are actively fighting Cuban guerrillas and that, in effect, there is a continuing -- if unspectacular and unpublicized -- "Hungary" going on in Cuba all the time.

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CUBAN DENIES RUSS TROOPS LEAVING

"Statements made in the United States that the Russian Army is pulling out of Cuba appall the Cuban people, who live with the Russian tyranny every day of their lives and are witnesses to the rapid entrenchment of the Soviets in our country."

So does a native of Camaguey Province, a pharmacist named Jacinto Torres, describe the reaction inside Cuba to assertions by Americans that Soviet troops are leaving the country. Torres, who like innumerable Cubans escaped recently in the now-proverbial tiny boat, also told a Free Cuba News correspondent that the Russians are continuing to construct military installations throughout the island. He reports:

"Three kilometers from Ciego de Avila [in Camaguey Province], the Russians are building a military camp. They have still another under construction on the road to Moron, at Kilometer 313. The installations are big ones, and I have seen them myself."

Torres confirms an earlier Free Cuba News report that the Soviets have built major radar installations in Cuba.

"From the distance, one can see communications installations going up on the military bases. One can see large antennas, radar nets, and strange-looking machines that point up in the sky."

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REPORT RED CHINESE INFLUENCE RISING IN CUBA

The Chinese Communists are taking over complete control of every phase of life in the large Chinese colonies in Havana and Santiago, according to Cuban refugees of Chinese descent who arrived in Miami this month. And it is quite possible, judging by their accounts, that Red China's influence in Cuba generally may be growing, despite the fact that on his Russian trip Castro plumped for Khrushchev in his quarrel with Mao Tse-tung.

"We are giving the orders here," a Red Chinese uniformed "technician" told Rolando Jon Wong, a Chinese-Cuban who has left Havana. Robbed of his modest produce business by the Castro regime, Wong was ordered to go out into the fields and pick tomatoes, or else... As soon as he could, he opted for the U.S.

Within the past year, according to another Chinese-Cuban arrival, Alfredo Yi, the Chinese Communists have virtually taken over the intricate system of social clubs, restaurants, casinos and political organizations that Cuba's Chinese population had built up over the years.

Yi, who owned a hotel at the beach resort of Varadero, related this story as an example of the growing Red Chinese influence:

"Three young Chinese Communists told me that I must give up my hotel by May 28. They carried no documents of any kind, but warned me that my relatives in China would suffer if I resisted."

Yi had no alternative but to give in, then flee. "Now," he goes on, "my hotel is being used as a lodging house for Russians."

Another new refugee, a schoolteacher named Juana Maria Pedregal, claims that she has seen many Chinese Communist vessels dock at Guantanamo port and Santiago de Cuba recently.

Cuba before Castro boasted a sizeable Chinese colony, whose numbers have been estimated at about 40,000 (out of a total population then of some six million). How many Chinese Reds have come to Cuba since Castro took over in 1959 is anybody's guess. "Fraternal delegations" began arriving as early as mid-1959, and after Castro and Mao established diplomatic relations in the summer of 1961 many Red Chinese entered Cuba as "embassy advisors." Some of them now occupy key posts in banks and in the Ministries of Industry and Finance. Generally, they speak Spanish, and they are said to mix better with the Cubans than the Russians do.

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RED VISE CLOSES ON CUBAN EDUCATION

Communist control over Cuba's colleges and universities was completed, May 27, with the promulgation of Decree 1110 creating two new Education Ministry divisions with dictatorial powers over curriculum, reading lists, and professorial appointments. Comments a recently escaped educator:

"The new decree will turn classes into seminars for the subversion of Latin America, and the administrations of our universities into planning centers for indoctrination."

Puppet President Osvaldo Dorticos has underscored the educator's fears. On June 7, in a speech at the Chaplin Theater, Havana, made before 1,682 students, he hailed the "comrades from other Latin American countries" who were present and had presumably gone through "subversion seminars" in Cuba's colleges.

The Education Ministry divisions created by Decree 1110 are the National Council of Universities and Superior Union of Universities, both of which come under the virtual control of the official United Party of the Socialist Revolution (PURS). The Council and the Union are charged with "the direction and orientation of university and graduate-level teaching."

The first overt Communist bid for control of Cuban education came on Jan. 10, 1962, when Juan Marinello, President of the Communist Party, was appointed by Castro as Rector of Havana University. Since then, the Red vise has been systematically clamped on Cuban youth, step by step, and has now closed firmly with passage of Decree 1110.

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NIKITA BIDS CASTRO OVERCOME PRODUCTION LAG

The increasing concern over falling production that Cuban leaders have been showing since Castro's return from the Soviet Union, June 3, appears to indicate that Khrushchev had demanded an overhaul of the Cuban economy as the price for such concessions as paying his Caribbean puppet two cents more per pound for sugar. (Cuba, which had been selling Russia sugar at four cents a pound, will now get six.)

Castro himself made clear, in his June 4 speech upon returning home, that the drastic decline in sugar production -- from which Cuba traditionally derives most of her income -- and other critical economic problems played a central role in his discussions with Khrushchev.

"We have not complied with our sugar commitments," he admitted when he returned from Russia, "for various reasons known to all of you. They [the Russians] have organization and efficiency, and we were comparing them with our disarranged organization and our inefficient, our not-so-efficient, organization."

Those words were a far-reaching admission of failure, clearly the result of prodding by Castro's Soviet betters. He then appeared to follow further Soviet instructions when he called upon the Cuban people to work more efficiently, and to produce "more and more goods."

No less significant was a follow-up speech made by Cuba's chief Communist economic theoretician, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, on June 8, which admitted that "chaos" ruled the economy and demanded corrective measures.

"We must decisively correct our errors," Rodriguez insisted. "The economy must be made productive, and we must live on our income."

The latter statement was a reference to Castro's announcement, in his June 4 speech, that "we have an unfavorable balance of trade of nearly \$200 million a year."

The lesser fry have been making statements similar to those of Castro and Rodriguez. Antonio Aguero, a member of the Agricultural Production Board, revealed to a production meeting in Havana on June 8 that the deficit from the Soviet-style collective farms was more than \$46 million.

Such admissions appear to reflect grave concern among the Cuban leadership over the growing apathy among Cuban workers (absenteeism is a favorite complaint of the leaders), and over the continuing acts of sabotage, both of which have contributed so much to the near-ruination of this year's coffee, tobacco and rice crops and the near-record decline in sugar production.

What punishment Khrushchev will mete out to his Cuban satraps, if they fail to heed his orders to overhaul the economy, should be interesting to see.

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INSIDE LATIN AMERICA

КОМИТЕТ МОЛОДЕЖНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ СССР

Москва, ул. Кропоткина, 10.

Телефон Г 6-33-83, Г 6-84-02

The headline in Russian is actually the letterhead of an interesting enterprise, and reads in translation: "U.S.S.R. Committee of Youth Organizations. Moscow, Kropotkin Street No. 10. Telephone G6-33-83, G6-84-02."

Free Cuba News came across the letterhead through friends, who passed on a letter written on it, from Moscow, to a certain Aldo Alvarez of the Cuban Union of Young Communists, in Havana. Signed by one P. Reshetov, who calls himself "President of the Organizing Commission of the Youth Organizations," the letter discusses the preparations going on for the "Second Congress of Latin American Youth" to be held in Santiago, Chile, in August.

What is pertinent about the Reshetov letter is that it exposes the use of Russian and Cuban official channels for purposes of subverting Latin America, particularly how Cuban embassies there serve such purposes. For Reshetov writes Alvarez, quite frankly:

"Reports obtained through our Embassy [in Havana] 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 on a high level. In the meantime, it is necessary for the Preparatory Committee to work in coordination with your Embassy [in Chile], in order to reach a greater degree of effectiveness in the propaganda campaign."

Reshetov added that he was enclosing orders for the Cuban puppets to follow.

"Attached you will find the directives for working up the agenda," he told Alvarez, "and you will note therein a change as compared with what we discussed at Helsinki, last August, during the VIII World Youth and Students Festival for Peace and Friendship. These amend-

ments respond to the necessary elasticity in the policy to be followed after Comrade Khrushchev succeeded in containing the war-mongering aspirations of Yankee imperialism [a reference to the missile crisis -- Ed.], thus saving the brave Cuban people from the dangers of invasion."

Lest there be the slightest doubt that the Cuban Young Communists must work directly under their Russian masters, Reshetov ordered:

"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, at our Embassy in Havana, to resolve any urgent matter that may arise."

Reshetov then congratulated the Cuban comrades for their "successful work," and concluded:

"We urge you to continue the struggle until the final liberation of the peoples [in Latin America] subjected to North American imperialist reaction."

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NAB ECUADOR RED WITH SUBVERSION PLANS

Jose Maria Roura got off a plane in Quito, Ecuador recently with a suitcase full of forged passports and identity cards, \$27,500 in cash, and plans detailing subversive activities to be launched in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Roura was returning from a visit to Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The documents in his suitcase were "part of the Communist plan for subversion and political agitation prepared by Cuban Minister of Industry Ernesto Guevara," Ecuadorian Minister of Interior, Jaime del Cerro, announced after questioning Roura personally.

They outlined plans to "subvert constitutional order in five Latin American countries," said the Minister. "They were of great importance."

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