

the cuban report

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ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF CUBA

The strongest measure taken by the United States Government, represented by the Democratic Administration, to keep Soviet Cuba's influence as far as possible from the rest of the Continent is the economic blockade.

By this blockade a ship taking merchandise to Cuba will not be able to take merchandise to the United States. Through the chanceries the measure was enforced so that the rest of the Western countries would not trade with Cuba.

This was true until several weeks ago when Great Britain informed that a private British company would sell 200 buses to Cuba and that there was no reason to impede this trade. Spain, Japan, and others followed the example given by the treacherous Albion.

The economic blockade has always been insufficient to control the internal situation of a country. Spain was boycotted by the United States, Great Britain, and almost all the countries in the world at the end of the civil war, when the national forces took over the control of the country; until now Gen. Francisco Franco has maintained himself as supreme ruler of the European Peninsula. This happened more than 25 years ago.

At the present time, the American position is weakening more and more before the eyes of the whole world. The fatal events which have occurred in Panama; the Cuban arms in Venezuela and Colombia; the influence of Cuba in the taking of power by the Communists in Zanzibar, Ghana; and many other international problems in which the hand of Fidel Castro has been apparent and the silence of Washington is imposed upon the other chanceries and the O.A.S. All these facts have made the Cuban people extremely worried.

Is the U.S. thinking of giving up the fight against International Communism and its position of leadership of the Western World; or is the U.S. thinking of giving its banners to the "undefeatable power of the Marxism Leninism"?

Great Britain sells buses to Cuba. Spain builds ships for the Cuban fleet. Canada sells 13,000 heads of cattle. Japan increases her trade with Cuba. The whole world laughs at the measures taken by the U.S., and the U.S. does nothing. France establishes relations with Red China and nothing happens. It looks as if the U.S. is mute. Among other things, even in the true story of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Before Fidel Castro took over power, Cuba was the country in America that rendered more medical and hospital services to the people, freely and permanently. In education Cuba spent 3.4% of its national income. This percentage exceeds the highest in Latin America and was only exceeded by the 4.3% of the United States and the 3.9% of Canada. The education covered expenses for many institutions, both elementary and secondary, as a contribution of the state to the cultural development of the people.

Let us compare based on the percentage of previous years how the politics of the Cuban Marxist State has evolutionized, from a strictly financial viewpoint, with relation to military expenses. The budget of the Defense Ministry, for the fiscal year 51-52, reached a total of \$42,000,000. That of 56-57, in force until the Communists took over registered a total of \$55,000,000.

The last budget of republican Cuba, the highest in history, set aside \$38,000,000 for salaries, \$12,000,000 for clothes, foods, and medicines and \$5,000,000 for the acquisition and maintainance of military equipment. Note that this last period of our history includes a period of civil war.

The budget of the Communist regime for military salaries tripled the total of the highest budget of the Ministry of Defense of republican Cuba. Raul Castro, Fidel's brother and Minister of the so called Revolutionary Armed Forces, stated in a speech on the 12 of November, 1963 that this organization "pays salaries equivalent to a hundred plus millions of dollars and the plus is a Heron's beak". "In war materials, usually expensive - added Raul Castro in the speech - you have to imagine what this represents for the economy. Each time a cannon is fired, depend on the caliber, is a cow that comes out of that cannon, and sometimes cow and calf together; a Mig-4 helycopeter, the big ones, flying for one hour, represents for the Cuban people one thousand dollars and four hundred dollars, just in gasoline, parts, etc."

In 1959 Fidel Castro increased the military expenses in \$34,000,000, reaching a total of \$89,000,000. In 1961 the military budget was \$100,000,000. In 1962, \$247,000,000. In 1963 the sum budgeted only for Military Defense and Internal Affairs was \$214,000,000, not counting the amount spent in the adquisition of arms.

The budget of the Communist regime is \$221,000,000 for the expenses of National Defense and Interior Order for 1964. Besides they have set aside \$413,042,697 as a reserve for unkown reasons, which will be spentsfundamentally for military matters.

MILITARY EXPENSES OF CUBA
(in million dollars)

1951-52(a)	1956-57(a)	1959(b)	1960(b)	1962(c)	1963(d)	1964(e)
42	55	89	100	247	214	221

NOTE: From 1962 on, the budget of Communist Cuba established a Centralized Reserve "to be applied to activities, not budgeted, which may arise during the year". This Reserve has been used to cover expenses incurred in the adquisition of arms, propaganda, subversion in foreign countries. The Reserve for this year is \$413,000,000.

- SOURCES:
- a) Ministry of Treasury
 - b) Laws of the Provisional Government of the Revolution, Editorial Lex, Havana
 - c) Law No. 998 dated 5 January, 1962
 - d) "Revolution" (newspaper), Havana, dated 10 March, 1963
 - e) "Periodico El Mundo" (newspaper), Havana, dated 20 January, 1964

* In Mariel, Pinar del Rio Province, on December 8, 1963 two Russian vessels were unloading hydroelectric materials. At 7.00 pm all workers were dismissed and soldiers of the Rebel Army finished the task. All types of bullets, including cannon bullets were also unloaded.

* On December 15, 1963 the Czech and Russian vessels Dalik and Kpacheoz Hamr docked at the port of Mariel. Army soldiers again unloaded both vessels. This time the load included tanks and 20 by 8 foot boxes.

* In the suburb of Havana named Colinas de Villarreal the communists are undertaken the construction of a new military base. Nobody is allowed to enter that zone.

* It has been learned that on G Street # 359, Apt. 5, in Vedado, the residence of a Venezuelan technician and his family, there is a radio station broadcasting subversive propaganda to Venezuela.