

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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From: Director of Naval Intelligence
To: Distribution List

Subj: Communist "take-over" in Cuba (U)

Encl: (1) Summary of Information ser 921E/03 dated 5 Jan 1960

1. Enclosure (1) prepared on the basis of unsolicited material recently made available to the Office of Naval Intelligence is forwarded for information.


L. H. FROST

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Subject: Communist "take-over" in Cuba

1. The following represents conclusions reached regarding the situation in Cuba by a former Frenchman who is married to an American citizen and who has been a naturalized Cuban citizen for fourteen years. The source of this information has, during this period, been the owner and director of a private school in Havana.

International Communist objectives in Cuba

2. According to the source, the International Communists are using the Castro Regime and the 26th of July Movement in Cuba to take over the State and incorporate it into the Communist World. This individual considers that when the take-over is completed in Cuba, that country will then be used as a base from which similar operations will be conducted against other Latin American states. He predicts that Brazil will be the next major target.

Moscow's conspirators in Cuba

3. This observer alleged that the principal activist groups implementing the Kremlin's plan to establish a Marxist State in this hemisphere are the Chinese Communists, the Yugoslavs and a relatively few Soviet citizens. In support of his conclusions, he cited the following:

a. Popular support for the Castro Regime has been whipped up through the use of the classic Lenin tactics of exploiting nationalism as an offensive weapon. The United States and to a lesser extent, the Batista Regime, are the principal villains. Coupled with the nationalist appeal for popular support is the promise to break down the holdings of the large land owners and redistribute the land to the masses.

b. Organized labor is being used as a vehicle for establishing discipline and control over the masses. In this connection, the source stated that VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO,

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the Communist labor leader in Latin America, has spent considerable time in Cuba since the Castro revolution as an "advisor" to the administration.

c. Control has been established over transportation and communications media as well as over governmental offices by individuals amenable to communist discipline.

d. Communist control is being legalized through hundreds of new laws and decrees designed to regiment individuals as well as businesses through taxation, red-tape and fear.

Soviet subversion

4. Soviet support to the program of subversion directed toward the establishment of a communist-controlled state in Cuba is, according to the source, observable in the agreement Moscow has made to supply Castro with twenty MIG aeroplanes. According to this source, the agreement was arranged by a young British Communist whom he identified as "Captain Douglas" who returned to Havana from Moscow a few weeks ago. The source anticipates that such Soviet military assistance to Castro may find its way to Cuba via Sweden and the Bofors Company. He also believes that Soviet financial assistance is being made available to Castro through Swiss banking authorities. Assistance in revolutionary methodology has also been furnished, according to this source, by training in sabotage techniques given to some of the 26th of July Movement adherents at a communist sabotage school in Yugoslavia.

Control through fear

5. Fear and distrust of one's neighbors is reportedly widespread in Cuba at the present time where chance remarks may result in an individual being denounced as a counter-revolutionary. The result is that it is dangerous to protest against new laws or conflicts between existing laws. Consequently, business activities are being slowed down and are extremely difficult to carry out.

Opposition elements

6. That there is still enormous opposition to the communist character of the Castro Regime is indicated to this source by the size of the National Eucharistic Congress of the Roman Catholic Church, which convened in Havana late in November.

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One newspaper in Havana, the "DIARIO de la MARINA" continues publication of oblique criticism of the totalitarian, communist methods so apparent in Cuba. Its publisher and owner has been in New York, however, during the past two weeks. The source anticipates that this last stronghold of an opposition press will not remain in existence very much longer. He also anticipates that treatment of U. S. press representatives will continue to be so restrictive that it will soon be impossible for them to report with any degree of honesty and remain in Cuba.

Source views

7. The source indicated that anti-regime Cubans are dismayed by the attitude of the United States which appears, on the surface, to indicate this country believes it can carry out normal diplomatic relations with the Castro Government. He stated further that the propaganda stage is being set to press the United States to abandon its naval base at Guantanamo and that this communist directed offensive will be coupled with that being launched in Panama.

8. In the views of this source, the Communist timetable is well advanced. Representative government has been systematically destroyed. Castro and his communist clique rule by edict. The mask of communist control came off when Ernesto "Che" Guevara assumed the post of Minister of Finance. The facade of democratic government is maintained only because it serves communist purposes to consolidate control and to deceive the world as to the true state of affairs in Cuba.

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