

TELEGRAM

INCOMING

BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the
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SUBJECT

ACTION
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INFO
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Classification

Control: 1032

Recd: 31MAY67

R 301230Z MAY 67
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 4717
INFO RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 13
RUESMO/AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY NINE
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RUESLZ/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TWO
ZEN/AMEMBASSY LIMA UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY QUITO UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA UNN
ZEN/USUN NY UNN
STATE GRNC

BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5227

SUBJ: CUBAN LANDING INCIDENT IN VENEZUELA

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDA THIS SUBJECT UNDERSTANDABLY HAS SKIRTED REAL ISSUES IN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL AREAS, TAKING NO STAND ON WHETHER CUBA WAS FULFILLING "REVOLUTIONARY DUTY" IN ATTEMPTING PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO BELEAGUERED VENEZUELAN GUERRILLAS OR WHETHER GOVTS SUCH AS VENEZUELA'S HAVE GROUNDS FOR RAISING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE OF THIS NATURE AS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE. SOVIETS INSTEAD HAVE CONCENTRATED ON US MANIPULATION THESIS, ASSERTING FUROR OVER CUBAN LANDING WAS SIMPLY PRETEXT FOR OAS CAMPAIGN TO TIGHTEN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF CUBA WHICH US HAD BEEN WORKING ON FOR MONTHS, AND FOR WHICH US "SELECTED" VENEZUELA AS INITIATOR. US IS CHARGED WITH TRYING TO ACHIEVE IAPF THROUGH COMMUNIST-THREAT HYSTERIA, I.E. THROUGH BACK DOOR, IN VIEW US INABILITY TO GET IAPF ON PUNTA AGENDA; WITH GROPING FOR MEANS CGXATE IMAGE OF PAN-AMERICAN UNITY WHICH PUNTA FAILED TO IT ODUCE; AND WITH RELEASING SMOKESCREEN FOR IMPENDING TIGHTENING OF US "RESNRICTIONS" ON IMPORTS FROM LA.

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CUBA/VENEZUELA

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2. THIS CONNECTION, SOVIET PRESS HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED DIRECT ATTACK ON LA GOVTS (WITH EXCEPTION OF STROESSNER'S ALLEGED BRUTALITY), ALTHOUGH VENEZUELAN (SEPTEL) AND ALSO BOLIVIAN GOVTS CHARACTERIZED AS ACTING IN OAS UNDER US PROMPTING. USSR CONCERN OVER LA GOVTS' SENSIBILITIES ALSO IMPLIED IN DEFENSIVE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE TO REFUTE US ATR LA CHARGES OF CUBAN AGGRESSIVENESS, WHERE COMMENT MADE THAT EVEN USG HAD TO ADMIT RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN NO SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN CUBA.

3. SOVIETS DOUBTLESS REGARD CUBAN LANDING AS ROCKING BOAT IN SEVERAL WAYS IN MOSCOW-HAVANA CONTEXT. THEY MUST APPRECIATE OAS ACTION MAY REQUIRE INCREASED SOVIET AID TO CUBA (PRESS HERE HAS NOTED CUBAN TRADE WITH CANADA, UK, FRANCE, AND "OTHERS" THREATENED). AFTER INITIAL PRESS CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA IN FACE OF OAS "CAMPAIGN" AND REITERATION SOVIET LINE (STATE 201555) THAT LA NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT USES BOTH PEACEFUL AND VIOLENT TACTICS DEPENDING ON LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES (WITH NO EMPHASIS ON VIOLENCE), THESE SUBJECTS THEN DROPPED IN USSR'S "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH LA PATRIOTS" JUST ENDED. BURDEN OF "WEEK" PROPAGANDA WAS VALUE TO LA LEFTISTS OF SOVIET MORAL SUPPORT. PARAGUAY, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND HONDURAS ALL DESCRIBED AS EASING UP ON POLITICAL PRISONERS BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF SOVIET "PUBLIC OPINION," AND PROTEST MEETINGS TO THIS END HELD IN SEVERAL SOVIET CITIES DURING "WEEK". IN FACT, WE UNDERSTAND "WEEK" WAS SPECIAL, NOT ANNUAL EVENT AND YET EVEN HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY CUBAN LANDING INCIDENT.

4. SOVIETS DISCOMFITED BY ATTENTION DRAWN BY LANDING INCIDENT TO CUBAN-SOVIET DIFFERENCES RE TACTICS TO BE USED IN LA, WHICH SOVIETS GENERALLY HAVE TRIED TO CONCEAL. PRAVDA SUMMARY OF CUBAN CP'S MAY 18 STATEMENT ON INCIDENT QUOTED VERBATIM THE ADMISSION THAT CUBAN CITIZENS HAD BEEN INVOLVED, DENIAL THAT SOVIET WEAPONS SEIZED, AND EXHORTATION THAT CUBA WOULD PERSEVERE EVEN UNDER TOTAL BLOCKADE. BUT STATEMENT'S REMAINING POINTS (NOTABLY ATTACK ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND ON LA NUCLEAR FREE ZONE) OMITTED ENTIRELY. GP-3 THOMPSON
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