

CBC

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Cuba Will Acquire a Nuclear Reactor from The Soviet Union

The ~~story~~ ^{news} that Cuba will, ~~at an undetermined date~~ acquire a nuclear reactor from the Soviet Union does not come as a surprise to those who have followed events here in Cuba.

Back in April 1968, ~~Prime~~ Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro told a nationwide audience here that Cuba was already beginning to prepare itself for the atomic age. He said at that time that the energy of the future is nuclear energy. Castro pointed out in that speech more than six years ago that Cuba did ~~not~~ not have any big rivers, or coal reserves or petroleum. Every bit of petroleum had to be imported. Castro said that Cuba could not continue to build more and more thermoelectric stations, that the only answer was atomic energy. He announced at that time, in April 1968, that Cuba was giving scholarships to its best students to study Nuclear Physics and ~~Engineering~~ Engineering so as to have scientists and technicians capable of operating nuclear power plants when the time came. It is known that many of these students are studying in the Soviet Union.

The Canadian parliamentary delegation that visited Cuba earlier this year was able to get an idea of ^{the} emphasis Cuba is putting on ~~the study of nuclear energy~~ the study of nuclear energy, even on the high school level. The Canadian parliamentarians visited the Lenin junior and senior high school near Havana and saw a small ~~scale model~~ scale model of a nuclear reactor electric plant that filled an entire room. One of the extracurricular clubs at the school is devoted to a study of nuclear physics.

~~When~~ ^{then} will Cuba have its first nuclear electric power plant in operation? A high official of Cubas electrical industry recently told a reporter here in Havana that Cuba will have an operational nuclear power plant by 1980.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC radio news.

1:57

This is 4 PM in Havana
This is a follow up to the call I received this morning from Hal Jones on the rumor that Cuba will be acquiring a nuclear reactor from the Soviet Union. This

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