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From Mitchell Sharp to Castro to Brezhnev seems like an unlikely double play combination but it ~~did seem~~ ^{did seem} a little as if they were playing on the same team last Tuesday. At least, they were all batting the political ball around down below the Tropic of Cancer. While Sharp was speaking in Mexico, Soviet Party Secretary Brezhnev and Fidel Castro were addressing a rally before a million Cubans in Havana's Revolution Square.

Sharp, in Mexico, spoke about easing international tensions and so did Brezhnev and Castro in Havana. Castro mentioned Canada and Sharp mentioned Cuba.

What the Canadian Minister for External Affairs said was that the exclusion of Cuba from the Organization of American States was an ~~xx~~ example of ~~xxxx~~ division rather than unity. He declared that Canada would stay out of the OAS until it becomes concerned with practical results rather than with ideology.

The theme of practical results was also very much present in Both Brezhnev's and Castro's speeches. Brezhnev told the Cubans ~~that~~ ^{quote} "excavating machines and harvesters combines are weapons of revolutionary struggle." What he was say^{ing} was that the successful development of their country would not only ~~consolidate socialism within it~~ ^{strengthen Cuba itself} but would be an example to others, especially ~~in~~ the underdeveloped ~~xxxx~~ nations.

Inasmuch as the excavators and harvesters of which Brezhnev spoke largely come from the Soviet Union it was a way of pointing up that Soviet aid to Cuba's peaceful development strengthened the cause of the socialist world. It is significant that Mr. Brezhnev ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{make it an} ~~xxx~~ this ~~xxxxxx~~ also made the point that "revolutions cannot be exported."

Notes on Cuba - USSR Relations

Inasmuch as the excavators and harvesters of which Brezhnev spoke largely come from the Soviet Union, it was a way of pointing up the idea that Soviet aid to Cuba's peaceful development strengthened the cause of the socialist world. In view of the dismal failure of the Alliance for Progress in Latin American and open US support for ~~unpopular~~ unpopular military dictatorships in the hemisphere, the Soviet example in Cuba might ~~have~~ more attraction to Third World countries than most commentators care to admit.

CULMINATION OF FOURTEEN YEARS

In March, twenty two years ago, Fulgencia Batista took power. It was the height of the Cold War and in Cuba by a military coup. One of his first steps was to sever diplomatic and commercial ties with the Soviet Union. Batista's coup had cut short the election campaign that was then in progress. ~~who had been a~~ with a good chance of winning ~~xxx~~ Fidel Castro, a ~~xxxxx~~ candidate for Congress then began his struggle that would lead his movement to victory almost seven years later.

In 1959, the first year of the new revolutionary government, there were the beginnings of contact with the Soviet Union. February 1960, however, marked a milestone. That month, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Anastas Mikoyan paid a visit to Cuba to inaugurate a Soviet exposition and sign ~~xxxxfirst~~ a modest ~~xx~~ trade pact. In May of that year, diplomatic relations were established.

It was not until a mini energy crisis struck Cuba in June 1960 that relations between the two countries really began to warm up. That month, foreign-owned petroleum refineries refused to process a couple of barge loads of Soviet oil bought by the ^{Cuban} government at advantageous ^{prices} process. The ~~gxxx~~ Cuban government, ~~acting under a~~

revolutionary decree, took over the Texaco refinery. A few weeks later the United States government announced suspension of ~~deliveries~~ ^{the} ~~of~~ ^{quota} Cuban sugar and the major oil companies clamped down an embargo on ~~deliveries~~ deliveries to the island.

The Cuban economy was faced with catastrophe. Sugar represented more than eighty percent of Cuban income and the United States absorbed 70% of Cuban crude sugar production. Without petroleum transportation and machines would come to a grinding halt.

~~The Soviet Union~~ ^{something happened} Then ~~did something~~ that US policy makers had not bargained for considering the geopolitical position of Cuba only ninety miles off US shores, the presence of a major US naval base on Cuban territory and the still unchallenged predominance of the Monroe Doctrine. The USSR offered to buy Cuban sugar and provide Cuba with petroleum. ~~The US~~ ~~squeeze play~~ was neutralized and Cuba had acquired a powerful ally.

When Cuba was refused weapons by Western manufacturers it ~~again~~ turned to the Soviet Union. By April 1961 ~~when the~~ Bay of Pigs invasion came, the Cubans had a sizable supply of Soviet ~~anti~~ anti-aircraft guns, tanks, mortars and automatic rifles. I ~~saw~~ these weapons, most of them spanking new, when I entered the fighting area with the first group of foreign correspondent immediately following the recapture of the beach-head ~~at Playa~~ ^{for the Bay of} ~~Giron~~ ^{Pigs} by Castro's forces.

Concluded

The launching of Cuban-Soviet relations was simultaneous with the hard splash down of Cuban-US relations. Since then, four US presidents, two Republicans and two Democrats, have followed identical policies of trade embargo, economic pressure against third parties wanting to do business with the Cuban, and general hostility toward the Cuban revolutionary government. It has been and continues to be the same policy as that directed toward China until recently.

Over these fourteen years, the USSR has consolidated its relations with Cuba. ~~"The truly triumphal reception"~~ "The triumphal reception (the words are those of France Presse) given to Soviet Party Secretary Brezhnev earlier this week

The visit of Soviet Party Secretary Brezhnev to Havana culminates fourteen years of relations between the two countries. On two successive days last week, a million Cubans turned out to give ~~him~~ Brezhnev, in the words of the France Presse correspondent here, "a truly triumphal welcome."

TRADE RELATIONS BOOM

Commercial relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union have skyrocketed from 160 million dollars in 1960 to more than a billion dollars in 1973. ~~From~~ Over the past twelve years, the USSR has supplied the Cubans with 60,000 cars and trucks, 50,000 tractors, almost seven million tons of wheat and flour, much of it bought in Canada and transhipped to Cuba. ~~Soviet~~ Over the same period

Soviet tankers have delivered 65 million tons of petroleum to Cuban refineries from the Black Sea area, ~~at a cost of about 100 million dollars a year~~ *at a cost of about 100 million dollars a year*

~~Over the decade of the sixties, the USSR supplied Cuba with~~

Over the decade of the sixties, the USSR supplied Cuba with every conceivable item necessary for its survival and development.

~~Strangely enough, the USSR's policy was to~~

Strangely enough, ~~the USSR's policy was to~~ Cuba did not follow the example of the Soviet Union in its economic approach. In the

latter half of the sixties, cost accounting ^{had been} ~~was~~ virtually eliminated, and the slogan of more pay for more work was rejected as a matter of principle. Despite ~~these~~ ^{divergencies on these matters,} ~~trade~~ credits allowed Cuba to build up a two billion dollar trade deficit with the USSR.

POSTPONEMENT OF DEBT

~~between the USSR and Cuba~~
~~By 1973 the trade deficit had reached~~
~~three billion dollars~~ touched the three billion mark.

In January 1973, Fidel Castro signed a series of ~~trade~~ ^{interest free} economic accords. One of ~~which~~ ^{which} called for a twelve year ^{interest free} moratorium on all debts contracted with the Soviet Union ^{since the} from the beginning of the revolution. ~~In 1986~~ ^{until} Cuba will then have ^{the year 2011} twenty ^{or} five years to pay the ~~debts~~ debts. Another accord conceded 300 million dollars as a starter for the construction of two new textile plants, the reconstru tion of seven existing textile plants, the rec nstruction of existing nickel processing plants, the construction of a first stage of a new nickel and cobolt processing mill, the construction of electric power facilities, the enlargement of petrolaum refineries, the reconstruction of Cuba's railroad, the reconstruction and mechanization of Cuba's ports, the reconstru ction of Cuba's television networks, the ^{putting} ~~construction~~ into operation of a sugar harvester factory, the introduction of computers in ~~the~~ national planning, the continuation of geological

At the same time, The USSR agreed to buy large quantities of Cuban sugar ~~and nickel~~ at eleven cents a pound from 1973 to 1980 and nickel at \$5000 a ton over the same period.

The ~~economic~~ ^{stable} pact^s, according to the Cubans, gives them more than a decade ^{for} economic development ~~at~~ and technological advance at a time when most small underdeveloped nations face in uncertain future. By the end of this period, Cuba ^{plans} to have developed a viable fishing industry, a dairy industry and a nickel industry that will produce more than 100 million tons a year as compared with 36 million tons today and 18 million in 1958. ^{of nickel}

At the same time she hopes to expand her trade relations with other nations. Since 1969 Cuba has sold Japan about a millions tons of sugar a year amounting, ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ 1972 to

^{Cuba} The close relations ~~with Cuba~~ ^{between Cuba and the USSR} ~~has not seemed~~ ^{is not appear} to have dampened Cuba's desired to expand trade relations with other nations.

^{FOR THE FOR} Over the past four years, ~~Cuba has sold~~ ^{Cuban} Japan has bought a millions tons of sugar annually from Cuba, a sizable percentage of Cuba's ^{it Cuba's} annual output. The trade balance with Japan is about three to one ^{yearly} ~~in 1972, 140 million to 50 million dollars~~ ^{in 1972} in favor of Cuba and Japanese businessmen are extremely active in encouraging the Cubans to buy in their country. ^{The opposite} ~~whereas~~

~~whereas~~ ^{whereas} ~~the trade balance~~ ^{the trade balance} ~~problem exists in regard to Cuban-Canadian trade (in 1973, 80 million dollars to 15 million in favor of Canada).~~ ^{whereas} ~~the trade balance~~ ^{the trade balance}

dollars to 15 million in favor of Canada). If Canada is to compete with Japan and other countries for the ~~developing~~ ^{the} limited but viable Cuban market, it will probably be obliged to buy more Cuban sugar which has been kept out until now ^{because} of preferential tariffs to Commonwealth countries.