

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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INFORMATION

May 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

SUBJECT: Cuba Suffers Some Reverses

While the Cuban adventure in Angola has met with initial success and Castro's prestige in much of the third world has increased, this has not been accomplished without some cost.

Prior to September 1975, the Cubans had made great progress in gaining acceptance in Latin America and Europe. They had been reintegrated into the Latin American caucus of the UN; they had established good working relations with nations of the Western World; their trade with the West and access to its technology, markets, and even credits, had grown. (Since 1973 their trade with non-communist countries had tripled.) They had even taken some steps toward relaxing tensions with us.

There is evidence that some of this progress, however, is beginning to unravel and that Cuba is slipping back into the position of confrontation and total dependence upon the Soviet Union from which it presumably had hoped to escape. The accumulation of evidence is interesting.

I. Cuban Setbacks

1. Cancellation of the Latin American Chiefs of State (Amphictionic) Conference in Panama scheduled for June.
2. Iranian breakoff of relations.
3. Cancellation of Castro visit to Mexico.



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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY GH, NARA, DATE 11/14/2000~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. Cancellation of Vice Premier Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' visit to Panama.
5. Norwegian decision against further new assistance to Cuba after 1977.
6. Japanese agreement to refuse to purchase Cuban nickel.
7. Venezuelan cancellation of negotiations with Cuba for commercial flights and oil supply.
8. Announcement by Honduras that it would not reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba because of the Angola intervention.
9. Deterioration in relations with the PRC.
10. Two Cuban defectors to Portugal.

II. Hemispheric Leaders Who Have Recently Criticized Cuban Intervention or General Intervention in the Cuban Context

President Banzer of Bolivia

President Bordaberry of Uruguay

Secretary General Orfila of the OAS

President Perez of Venezuela

President Echeverria of Mexico

President Somoza (including charges of Cuban subversion in Nicaragua)

President Oduber and Foreign Minister Facio of Costa Rica

Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada



President Lopez of Colombia

President Pinochet of Chile

Prime Minister Williams of Trinidad and Tobago stated that the people of the Caribbean should stay out of Africa.

While the above actions and commentaries can be considered minor when compared to the increased prestige which Castro derives from the success of his operation, over the long term the costs of the Angolan venture may begin to be felt and to stimulate domestic criticism in Cuba where there was support for the pre-September policies seeking accommodation with the Western World.

