

July 30, 1959

**Memorandum, Stephen G. Xydis to Gene Sosin, 'RE
Policy Position Statement: Cuba'**

Citation:

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Summary:

An AMCOMLIB policy assistant comments on a draft RL policy paper on Cuba. (The paper is not attached.)

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MEMORANDUM

July 30, 1959

TO: Gene Sosin, Program Coordinator
FROM: Stephen G. Kydis, Assistant to the Director of Planning
SUBJECT: RL Policy Position Statement: Cuba

Assumptions, it seems to me, should be based on some research of the background of the situation to be dealt with in policy guidance. This research should include some study of the Soviet Communist treatment of the Castro problem. What has been done in the Cuban case? Little, it seems to me.

I am no specialist in Cuban or Caribbean affairs, but it seems to me that the Castro dictatorship is a transitional regime. Its character is not yet clear, as is the case of the Kassar dictatorship in Iraq. Castro has come to power by violence against a previous dictatorship. Though his regime has received international recognition on the part of the United States and other governments, it has not legitimized itself internally by democratic procedures.

Viewed in this light, RL's position should be, in my view, that no matter the intentions of the regime, we are against dictatorships whether of the Franco, the Tito, or the Khrushchevian type. Time will tell whether the Castro regime will follow a more democratic path. One criterion will be: how soon will he permit the free expression of the popular will at the polls?

For background facts, the attitude of the communists toward Castro before and after he achieved power, might be something worth mentioning. And it can be safely predicted that the Cuban communists will have less at heart the interests of the Cuban people than those of the international communist movement as a whole vis-a-vis the United States and Western Hemisphere interests. The Cuban people for them are expendable, if damage is to be done to the "capitalist camp" as a whole, and the United States in particular. As for the communist use of agrarian reform, there are numerous examples that what this eventually means is not land for the peasant but collectivization and state feudalism.

The historical background of U.S.-Cuban relations would be of interest. I have in mind particularly the repeal of the Platt Amendments that gave real freedom to the Pearl of the Antilles. As in the case of the Philippines, here too is an example of non-colonial policy on the part of the United States. Guantanamo base, on the other hand, is a topic that the Soviets will exploit.

An article in the May 1959 issue of World Today
~~If I recall correctly, an article in a recent issue of either International Affairs or Twentieth Century~~ gives some background information on the Cuban problem, including the attitude of Cuban Labor unions toward Castro. It represents a relatively uninvolved viewpoint and Moscow's New Times provides some clues about the Soviet Communist propaganda attitude.

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The issues in International Law of prompt and adequate compensation in matters of nationalization need not be avoided. Thought might be given whether I.L. might not project this issue to the Soviet picture in view of the increasing Soviet ventures in international finance. Would the Soviet people like to see other nations default on the loans their government has made to them? Or what are the differences between private capitalism "imperialism" and state capitalism ditto? And what is the difference between socialist division of labor in the Communist bloc (sodruzhestvo) and so-called colonialism?

Other remarks: The paper proposes to take no position. At the same time it suggests several quite positive ones. Confusion rather than clarity is the result.

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ACLB

28 JUL 1959

July 21, 1959

Mr. Eugene H. King
American Committee for Liberation
1657 Broadway
New York 19, New York

Dear Gene,

When you were last in Munich, we agreed to send to you our draft Policy Position Statements as soon as they were formulated.

You will find enclosed a draft policy on Cuba. May we have your suggestions and changes, if any, as soon as possible so that we may finalize the statement and distribute it to the staff.

Kindest regards.

Cordially,

Charles Malamuth

CM.ds
enc.