

short his stay in Canada, since he wanted to be here for that celebration. Behind this game of hide and seek, there is obviously serious trouble brewing in Cuba and it will be interesting to see what will happen when he eventually gets back to Cuba. His decision to attend the OAS meeting in Buenos Aires was greeted with mixed reactions here, because many Cubans believe Castro has now been away too long during a critical period in Cuba. They are particularly concerned that difficulties could arise on May 1 when communist infiltrated unions stage public demonstrations.

10. Cuba's popularity with other Central American nations continued to ebb during April. The dispute with former President José Figueres of Costa Rica, which started during his visit to Cuba (see our D-154 of April 2)† was continued through the press and radio reports. Suspicions apparently grew in Haiti and Dominican Republic that Castro was fostering invasion attempts and announcements that the Cuban government had halted three such invasion attempts did little to dispel these suspicions. It is an open secret that Fidel Castro has provided Dejoie with not only a comfortable house, but an up-to-date broadcasting set which Dejoie has been using regularly to attack Duvalier and threaten an invasion of Haiti. The participation of Cuban nationals in the landings in Panama over last weekend aroused further ill feelings against Cuba. In spite of Castro's denial of any knowledge about this invasion, the facts appeared to indicate official connivance. When Margot Fonteyn and Roberto Arias, her Panamanian husband, passed through Havana in January of this year, Arias, the ex-Panamanian Ambassador to London, spent all of his time in Cuba with Fidel and Raul Castro. Hence the plan, perhaps not to invade Panama, but to land close to the northern end of the Panama Canal, was undoubtedly known to Castro. Cuban and other observers found it difficult to believe that 400 armed "army deserters" could be collected in any small town in Cuba and loaded on board boats and sail in broad daylight without the government's knowledge. The reported admission by the first three prisoners captured, that they had been despatched with Castro's support, aroused further doubts regarding Castro's motives. His suggestion in a speech in Boston that a United States of Central America might be a worthwhile undertaking may indicate that he expects to be the Simon Bolivar who will reunite Spain's former Central American holdings.

D. Economic

11. The Cuban economy has long been tied to the world price of sugar and the continued fall in this price during the last four months has threatened Cuba's future economic stability. Not only the Cubans are concerned, however, and the International Sugar Council has now sent a senior official to Cuba to study the Cuban sugar industry in an attempt to recommend steps to stabilize sugar prices.

12. Many of the labour troubles which have faced Castro's government since its inception, and which have been postponed until the completion of the sugar harvest, are now growing more pressing. The government recently decreed a 12% raise in the salaries of cane cutters in an attempt to pacify that large segment of the labour force, but was then faced with a protest from the cane planters, who argue that they cannot absorb this wage increase under the present sugar marketing arrangement. The unemployed construction workers, who have not been able to find employment since the first of January, seized the headquarters of the Cuban Confederation of Labour (CTC) on April 5 and threatened to hold the building until Castro settled the paralysis in the construction industry, largely caused by the new rental law. They were persuaded to give up their stand but remain discontented with their lot.

13. One of the large sources of government revenue during the last four months must soon dry up, as the seizures of bank accounts and property of former Batista supporters near completion. On April 17 the Minister for the Recuperation of Misappropriated Funds announced that seizures of bank accounts and safety deposit boxes have netted the government a total of more than eighteen million dollars. Seized property must exceed this figure, but proceeds from such