



UPI Photo

Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro's laughter reflects the warmth of the reception given to Prime Minister Trudeau during his January visit to Cuba. This photo was taken during Mr. Trudeau's speech to the mass rally of 25,000 Cubans at Cienfuegos. At the conclusion of the speech, the Prime Minister shouted the customary "Vivas" at Cuban rallies, thus touching off controversy at home in Canada.

Canada's attitude as an example to other countries of good relations between developed and developing countries. "Today," he said, "the difficult years are behind us, we are less and less isolated, but we shall never forget those who behaved correctly towards us in those difficult years."

In private talks with Mr. Castro, the Prime Minister pressed for further expansion of the trade that had seen Canada's exports soar from \$81.9 million in 1973 to \$217.9 million last year. He particularly emphasized Canadian interest in such projects as the reconstruction of Havana Harbour, restoration or replacement of Cuba's dilapidated hotels, and provision of railway equipment. The Premier expressed particular interest in the possibility of joint-venture projects, particularly in the nickel-production field. But he also expressed concern about the size of Cuba's trade deficit, and urged Canada to buy more sugar; he was told, in effect, that Canadians were already buying as much as they needed.

Less forthcoming

Although international affairs occupied a large part of the discussions between the two leaders, Canadian officials were far less forthcoming on the substance of those talks.

If Mr. Trudeau's visit was bitterly controversial, it was largely because it took

place in the shadow of the Angola war. It was during the visit, in fact, that the Cuban official newspaper carried the first public admission that large numbers of Cuban troops were fighting in Angola.

Mr. Trudeau did argue against the Cuban intervention at some length during his private talks, but neither the tone of that discussion nor the vigour with which he stated his objections is known; the further the Prime Minister got from Cuba, the more forceful he and his aides claimed the presentation had been.

Some of the controversy resulting from the visit was silly. Although Mr. Trudeau's cries of "Viva" at the Cienfuegos rally produced some outrage in Canada, the closing phrases of his speech were simply a variation on the custom of toasting the health of the host and his country during a state visit; in Cuba, it just happens that the setting for speech-making is a rally rather than a banquet, and the accepted formula is a succession of "Vivas."

But another element of the controversy — the argument over whether Mr. Trudeau should have gone to Cuba at all while its forces were in Angola, or whether he should have publicly denounced the intervention — is more serious. There is no question that the Prime Minister's visit at that time was a prestige triumph for Mr. Castro.

Tone and vigour of objections unknown