

6. About 10,000 persons were arrested in Havana during the first two days of the emergency and the campaign of denouncements, arbitrary arrests and confinements gathered momentum during the days that followed. The basis of detention was broadened to encompass the arrest of persons who were "in a position to assist the enemy." Estimates of the numbers affected were as high as 50,000 throughout the island, and it became evident that the vigilante Committees for Defence of the Revolution were supplying much of the information and, in some cases, doing the preliminary investigation, interrogation and detention. The role of these Committees acquired added significance when the arrests continued and many persons remained in custody after the termination of hostilities.

7. Throughout the military crisis the press and radio stressed that Cuba could count on the support of the Sino-Soviet bloc nations. The Soviet announcement on April 18 that "the Cuban people will not be abandoned in time of difficulties" and that the Soviet Union would "give all the aid and support necessary in the fight for freedom and independence of Cuba" was warmly welcomed. The Soviet denouncement of United States complicity in the attack on Cuba and Mr. Khrushchev's warning that this action was "contrary to the interests of the American people and could place in danger the peaceful life of the population of the United States" served to substantiate the Castro Government's position both internationally and within Cuba.

8. Thus, the invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro forces who were widely believed to have received indirect support of one kind or another from sources in the United States occurred less than 48 hours after the bombing attacks by defecting Cuban pilots, and tended to confirm the Cuban Government's claim that the United States was responsible for both the bombing and the invasion. Nevertheless, it is beyond reasonable doubt that Prime Minister Fidel Castro deliberately lied about the bombings and, having done so, felt sufficient confidence to declare without equivocation that the Cuban Revolution was socialist. The Soviet response to these events helped to sustain both the lie and the truth. There were some indications that the Castro Government would go to almost any lengths to maintain itself in power.

9. In the final analysis, the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution may emerge as the primary beneficiaries of this situation. Through intimidation they have been establishing influence and authority in the communities where they are located, as well as in Government Ministries and institutions. This is a familiar pattern through which the Cuban Communist Party could take advantage of this opportunity to gain effective control of the country, but we have not been able to obtain any definite evidence that this is actually occurring.

10. All that can safely be said at this point is that in their "moment of truth" Fidel Castro and his Government have revealed some of their true colours.

ALLAN C. ANDERSON