

9. Or, was it, as some think, a last desperate attempt to get the United States to break off before Mr. Eisenhower steps down? If so, why? Why has Castro worked so hard on this? Why has it seemed to be a desired objective, rather than a disaster?

10. Dr. Prato, my Israeli colleague, and I were putting these questions to each other early this forenoon. We were in agreement in regretting that the United States had taken the initiative. As to the reason for the Cuban outburst which proved to be the final provocation, I said that I could not answer unless I could answer the other question "Who gave the orders?" We were both confident it was not Castro. Dr. Prato has been doing a lot of newspaper reading in his three months here, having no office work to do because the "efficiency" of the Law of Urban Reform has so far prevented him from obtaining quarters for the chancery. He pointed out to me that recent Russian statements in the context of Cuba have on the whole said very little about the United States, whereas every statement from China has attacked them. In particular he pointed out that while recently-arrived ambassadors, including himself, had been instructed not to make a speech when presenting credentials but merely to hand over the Letters, the new Chinese Ambassador had made a long speech, most of which was a series of attacks on the United States. The President, in replying, made no reference to these attacks. Dr. Prato, summing it up, agreed with me that the source of Cuban policy is communist whether Russian or Chinese, and that the anti-USA campaign might be described as clever brinkmanship which had at last apparently succeeded.

11. What happens next? It is totally unnatural that Cuba should be a communist country, having regard to its geographical position, its economy, its ethnic and historical links with its American neighbours. Someone said last night that a communist Cuba seemed as fantastic as a capitalist Outer Mongolia. Fantastic or not, Cuba now has, seemingly of her own initiative, acquired the closest links with China and all the countries of the Soviet bloc and has loosened or lost her links with her natural friends and neighbours. Many Cubans are acutely unhappy about it, and are at present expressing their unhappiness by exploding bombs in Havana department stores, radio stations, movies and other suitable spots. But Castro and his associates appear to be completely happy with their new friends. This is a division too deep-rooted to be easily bridged. I can offer no prediction.

12. The announcement was made last night, and our bag leaves after lunch. This letter, as you will have realized, is a very hasty note written merely to pass on to you some of what is being said today.

ALLAN C. ANDERSON