

decision to extend the death penalty to persons guilty of misusing public funds has caused further speculation that he is more interested in revenge than justice.

The Canadian Ambassador in Havana has pointed out that Dr. Castro's various attacks on "property" and "vested interests" have caused profound uneasiness amongst the 20% of the Cuban population who are owners of either small or large holdings. Businessmen are beginning to worry that these statements may be a forerunner of a similar attack on private business enterprise. There is a fast growing movement of distrust and opposition to the present trend which is being given to Cuban politics as a result of irresponsible and alarming statement by Castro. To many observers, Dr. Castro now appears unqualified for the leadership of a revolutionary government, which requires constant nursing and guidance, and the constant adulation of his entourage and the jungle law under which he lived in the Sierra Maestra were obviously a poor preparation for him in leading his country towards democracy.

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Although professing his faith in democracy, Dr. Castro has been very hesitant about announcing a specific date for the holding of elections in Cuba. In his latest statement on the subject, he outlined a list of prior conditions (e.g. that every sick Cuban have a bed, doctor and medicine; that Cuban youth have athletic fields and beaches; that there be national sovereignty, patriotism and economic independence) which would seem to preclude the holding of elections for several decades.

In foreign affairs, Dr. Castro has displayed an increasing tendency to blame the United States for Cuba's economic and political problems and to insist on a neutralist position for Cuba in world affairs. He publicly repudiated a pro-U.S.A. speech made in Havana by Jose Figueres, the former President of Costa Rica, in which Figueres counselled the Cuban Government to follow a moderate approach to revolutionary reforms and to align itself with the West. Figueres, who until then was supposed to be part of an anti-dictatorship triumvirate, made up also of Castro and Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt, was disturbed by the extent of Communist influence he found in Cuba and returned home convinced that the Communists have infiltrated not only the Cuban Army and organized labour but also circles close to Castro.

In a Washington interview Castro has denied, as his earlier statements gave it to understand, that Cuba would be neutral in a conflict between the West and the Soviet Union. He has also stated categorically that his brother Raul is not a Communist, and that if there happen to be any Communists in his government, their influence is nil. Many observers are still uncertain, however, that Dr. Castro is aware of the inherent danger in having Communist elements so close to him, even though they many not be campaigning openly.

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