

11. Unless there is some dramatic breakthrough on the international political front for Cuba the prospect would seem to be gloomy at best. But this need not necessarily mean the end for the Government. Several times in the past I have commented on the absence of any alternative to Castro in Cuba. This is still true today. There is nothing to fill the vacuum resulting from Castro's loss of prestige and popularity. No leader is on hand, no organization, and no programme around which people who wanted a change might group themselves. The sporadic and limited counter-revolutionary activity which has occurred throughout the year has, since the crisis began, almost disappeared. Also, given the resources which the Government possesses for enforcing its will, as well as the means of ferreting out potential opponents, active opposition, if such existed in any real sense of the word, would have difficulty in gathering momentum.

12. There is another fundamental factor, too. Cubans are wont to tell you in the same breath that they have never concerned themselves with the colour of the government-of-the-day in the past and complain about what they now have, and see no relationship between the two points. While admittedly there are many exceptions, the average Cuban is not cut from the cloth from which freedom-fighters are made. He essentially hopes that somebody, preferably Uncle Sam, or something, will eventually bail him out. In the meantime he is prepared to grumble but wait it out. Conditions exist in Cuba today which could produce an ultimate change of government and the normal safety valve of emigration has for the present been removed. However, unless there is a crack at the top, a revolt within the officer corps of the Army, or external circumstances bring about a change, conditions in Cuba will have to deteriorate further before the seeds of opposition sprout on the potentially fertile ground here.

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