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'S-GRAVENHAGE.

GEHEIM

Cuba

LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNIST MEETINGS IN CUBA.

Cuban Communists, after five years of illegal, underground existence during the BATISTA regime, now are staging a series of overt demonstrations and meetings concerned with both internal and foreign matters. The first important public meeting, a three-day session of the national committee of the Popular Socialist (Communist) party (PSP) that began on 26 January, dealt with the domestic situation and emphasized issues which would identify the party with the program and policies of the provisional Cuban Government.

The Cuban Communist party now is apparently becoming increasingly concerned with international meetings, perhaps partly in response to a Latin American Communist effort during the past year to achieve greater coordination among the various parties and partly as an attempt to regain the prominence - both in Cuba and abroad - that it enjoyed during the early 1940s. At the Soviet 21st party congress last month, Cuban delegate SEVERO AGUIRRA delivered a well-publicized speech claiming considerable credit for the PSP in ousting former dictator BATISTA.

Several Latin American Communist delegations have been invited to meetings in Havana in late February. At one meeting, to which the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan parties have been invited, the present "excellent" position of the Cuban party and its past and present efforts to support and influence the CASTRO government are to be discussed, as well as plans to overthrow the government of Nicaraguan President SOMOZA.

This last point reflects increasing Communist efforts to exploit and benefit from the popular anti-dictator upsurge encouraged by CASTRO. Communists have already formed an organization of Nicaraguan exiles in Venezuela which they hope will become the instrument of Nicaragua's "liberation" and are believed to have considerable influence in a similar Dominican group in Venezuela.

The Cuban Communist youth organization (JS) is also reliable reported to have scheduled a meeting for late February to which its Ecuadoran counterpart was invited; the JS was to pay all local expenses.

Eind februari 1959.