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Cuba's Commitment To "hard-line" Socialism": Summary Of Recent Statements & Events

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In a speech July 26 marking Cuba's revolutionary holiday, President Fidel Castro said that Cubans would pursue their own brand of socialism, regardless of what happens in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the socialist world. On the evening of July 27, in a speech before tens of thousands in Camaguey, President Castro said that Cuba could no longer say "with certainty that supplies that have been coming to our country will continue to arrive with the usual clockwork punctuality and as previously guaranteed." No reductions in Soviet-bloc aid have been announced. In comments before the National Assembly the previous week, Castro noted delays in deliveries of Soviet materials for a construction project. Castro accused President Bush of trying to exploit difficulties in socialist countries and said the US was becoming increasingly hostile to Cuba. He also spoke of the possibility of a "great civil war in the USSR" and the prospect that the Soviet Union might "disintegrate." Next, the president spoke of "inhuman" US capitalists bent on a new colonialism. He told the crowd that the US was like Adolf Hitler's Germany, "dreaming about an empire of 1,000 years." According to Castro, Cubans must prepare for a war of attrition, total blockade, even invasion and occupation. It would serve young Poles right, said Castro, if they had a chance to taste the "egotistical, brutal and inhuman" capitalist system. If socialism collapses, he said, the US and other "imperialist powers" will try to divide up the world and "recolonialize" it, sharing out its resources and people among themselves. Castro said the strike of Soviet coal miners had "filled the imperialists with joy," and the collapse of the Soviet Union was an "imperialist dream." On Aug. 4, official newspaper Granma reported that the Cuban Communist Party banned the circulation of two Soviet publications the weekly Moscow News and the monthly Sputnik. According to Granma, the publications promoted bourgeois democracy and the American way of life. Xinhua reported that the editorial disclosing the ban was titled, "An Undeferrable Decision, Consequent With Our Principles." The editorial said "those who deny the guiding role of the party in the Soviet Union, call for a multiparty system, proclaim the free action of the laws of the market, exalt foreign investments, rediscover private property, question internationalism and solidarity with other nations." The editorial said Sputnik and the Moscow News "gave the idea that the USSR has no history" and "that it is necessary to begin again starting from zero...They forget that thanks only to all that has been achieved in these years of Soviet power and under the umbrella of strategic parity has it been possible to develop the present process in that nation." By reading the two publications, "those who are not firmly convinced of the historical necessity and possibilities of socialism could doubt its viability and even lose hope," the editorial said. The editorial said the Soviet Union and other socialist nations had the right to decide what could be published and defended the diversity of Soviet opinion available in Cuba. Granma said 36 Soviet publications with an annual circulation of 15.8 million copies are distributed in Cuba. It did not report on how many of those were editions of Moscow News and Sputnik. "All of these publications, without exception, encourage and defend in one way or another, with their shades and peculiarities, the process which is taking place presently in the Soviet Union," the editorial said. But of Sputnik and Moscow News it said, "Hiding themselves behind the necessary diversity of opinion, they spread opinions that lead to anarchy."
According to Reuters (08/05/89), no Western newspapers or magazines are sold to Cubans. Since last year, foreign journalists and diplomats have been able to subscribe to US publications which must be paid for in dollars. (Basic data from AP, 07/27/89, 08/05/89; New York Times, 07/28/89; Washington Post, 08/01/89; Reuters, 08/04/89, 08/05/89; UPI, Xinhua, Prensa Latina, 08/05/89)

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