

Castro Accuses Peking of Army

The Weather

Today—Some cloudiness, high in 40s.
Tuesday—Cloudy, mild, high in 40s.
Sunday's temperatures—High, 34 degrees at 1:37 p.m.; low, 10 degrees at 6:33 a.m.

Weather Details on Page B3.

The Washington

Times Herald

Subversion Attempts

Post

Head Start

Today, in a continuing series on the Great Society's War on Poverty, Staff Writer Eye Edstrom reports on Project Head Start . . . "the most popular and least controversial of the poverty programs. Page A19.

Castro Hits Peking for 'Subversion'

Serious Effect Seen in Relations Of 2 Red Nations

By Michael Arkus

HAVANA, Feb. 6.—Prime Minister Castro accused Communist China today of trying to subvert the Cuban army in a withering attack that could seriously affect the already strained relations between Havana and Peking.

He claimed the Chinese are carrying out subversion with anti-Russian literature and by direct contact.

The Cuban leader likened Chinese activities to those of the United States "when it tried to interfere in our internal affairs and in one way or another impose its will on the nation."

His unprecedented, violent attack accused China of "exerting blackmail, extortion, pressure, aggression and strangulation . . . and of the worst methods of piracy, oppression and filibustering."

Castro's attack was a written reply taking up almost two pages of today's newspapers, to China's reduction of

rice supplies to Cuba. Castro accused Peking of "brutal reprisals of an economic nature for purely political reasons" and of joining the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

He said the real reasons for holding back supplies of rice, sugar and beans were not economic but were dictated by Cuba's refusal to allow distribution of propaganda material "on questions tending to deepen divisions between Socialist peoples and states" through the armed forces and administration.

Castro claimed that Chinese government representatives have distributed propaganda material among officers of the Cuban general chiefs of staff, the army chiefs of staff, divisional and other army bodies.

"On occasion Chinese representatives tried to make contact directly with Cuban officers," Castro said.

Protest Ignored

Castro and Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos protested to the Chinese charge d'affaires here in December about propaganda.

However, the Chinese "with the insolence of the omnipotent . . . continued to distribute in Cuba more than 800 mailbags of propaganda material," Castro said in today's statement.

He lambasted China for "hypocrisy, insolence, absolute contempt, betrayal of confidence, friendship and brotherhood, bad faith, cynicism and the worst form of poison."

The vehemence of Castro's attack stunned diplomats here and started speculation on the permanent effects it

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HAVANA—From AP

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might have on Sino-Cuban relations.

It was the latest blast in the trade war which opened last month when Castro revealed that China had refused to supply Cuba with all the rice Havana requested for 1966. Instead of 280,000 tons, China would send only 135,000 tons, Castro announced.

The Cuban monthly rice ration was halved from six pounds to three per person.

It was no longer a question of more or less rice, but of a much more important and fundamental matter, Castro said today.

At issue was whether powerful countries could "assume the right of exerting blackmail, extortion, pressure, aggression and strangulation... whether the worst methods of piracy, oppression and filleting would also reign in the world of tomorrow."

Castro said China's reply to his original explanation to the Cuban people why they would have less rice had forced him to reveal the full facts.

In its statement China claimed Castro had quoted inaccurate Cuban trade figures and said it was suspicious he should have chosen the eve of the recent Afro-Asian-Latin American tricontinental leftist conference in Havana for his speech.

Castro's written reply today also disclosed this year's sugar harvest would be less than last year's total of just over 6 million tons. He blamed the worst drought in 60 years for the decline.