



Box 2615 San Francisco 26, California
TH8-5120

FPC NEWSLETTER — October 21, 1963

EDITORIAL

Funds For Cuban Relief

It has been hard for many of us to think of Cuba the past week. The worst national disaster the island has ever suffered is still in progress. As late as Oct. 12th, one-half of the province of Oriente was still under water and where the waters of the rivers have receded the picture is one of desolation. Pastures and farms have become sandy beaches; dead cattle and ruined crops are scattered everywhere; some families have gone without food for as long as seven days. One thousand Cuban peasants in Oriente and Camaguey have been returned to the dust they briefly enjoyed as their own, having been cut off from their recently acquired meaning in life to which they had sacrificed so much.

Their deaths removed them unknown from the struggle to build a new society as they had entered it unknown. In particular those of us who have visited their country since the Revolution shall keep for them what they, in the quiet dignity found only in peasants, would have preferred—the silence of our hearts and an attentive memory.

The Cuban people have been set back at least a year in their striving for a larger share of life's bounty due to them! This great loss comes at a time when the power of intimidation has throttled so many of our fellow citizens that only a Gideon's Army remains to serve as our country's conscience. We can, perhaps, accept this situation and the U.S. government's present Cuban invasion preparations more quickly by telling ourselves that every society has the criminals it deserves. This may serve as an explanation, but should also spur us to action.

Checks for Cuban Relief should be made out to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and sent to the Bay Area FPC at our above address until a separate committee is organized. Such a committee, composed of people with a wide range of attitudes toward the Cuban Revolution, is now in the process of being formed in New York and will soon be in a position to accept money presently being collected by FPC.

Tom Sanders
Executive Secretary
Bay Area FPC

Other News Regarding Cuba

RADIO REPORTS

HAVANA (Oct. 12): Prime Minister Castro and President Dorticos continued today their tour of the worst hit area by the hurricane. They are being accompanied in Oriente by the Chief of the Central Army and the President of the Agrarian Reform Institute and are leading a caravan of amphibious vehicles carrying canned food

and medicine. Helicopters are being used in the most isolated areas and an air lift operation of larger planes has brought out thousands of people daily.

One small town of 500 people located on the slopes of the Sierra Maestra Mtns. has been buried by a landslide, but most of the people were evacuated in time. Three hundred doctors and two hundred nurses along with members of the Cuban Red Cross and hundreds of volunteers from the Ministry of Public Health are taking care of the injured throughout Oriente province. Almost a total loss was reported for the entire province in vegetable crops, banana crop, poultry and livestock.

The Minister of Industry, Che Guevara, reported Oct. 10 about losses of a beer and malt plant, textile factories, furniture factories, a factory making bolts and nuts, and severe damage to several cement plants. Extensive damage was also done to the electric power plant under construction at Santiago. Several construction works throughout Oriente and an unspecified number of sugar mills have suffered damage.

On Oct. 8 Havana authorities announced that Cuban fishing boats aided by the Soviet Union's fishing fleet near Cuba are headed for the south eastern coast of Oriente with a supply of fish. They also reported that in Camaguey, the capital of the province by the same name, 70% of the population is left homeless and the city is completely surrounded by water. About 400 houses have been totally destroyed there by the 100 miles an hour hurricane wind.

VATICAN CITY (Oct. 12): On the proposal of a Mexican Bishop it was agreed to start collecting aid for victims of the hurricane in Haiti and Cuba before the end of the last plenary session of the Ecumenical Council. The Secretary of the Council called on all those present to cooperate with the Mexican Bishop's proposal and said that this statement from the Council has nothing to do with the aid already sent by Pope Paul in the name of the Vatican.

VOICE OF AMERICA (Oct. 11): The U.S. has allotted \$250,000 for relief work in Haiti. The Dept. of Defense will coordinate the operations of various American organizations such as CARE, World Council of Churches, etc.

Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa announced on Radio Havana that in Oriente 50% of the corn crop was totally destroyed and 50% of the coffee crop was damaged.

TRADE: The U.S. blockade of Cuba through an effort to blacklist Western shipping has failed. There has been a considerable increase in shipping to the island during the second quarter of 1963. Approached on the need to cut down Spanish trade with Cuba, Spanish Ambassador to Washington Antonio Garrigues replied that it was his government's desire to increase, not to curb Spain's air and shipping service to the island. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, said that Spain was cooperating in limiting trade with Cuba. He did not mention recent Spanish-Cuban economic agreements.

SUGAR: The 1963 sugar harvest was the lowest in the history of the Revolution. The N.Y. Times estimated it at 3.8 million tons. Nevertheless, Cuba signed a sugar-for-rice trade pact with Uruguay last summer. Cuba was to supply Uruguay with 20,000 tons of sugar in 1963 and 30,000 tons in 1964. Private Uruguayan companies would sell Cuba 15,000 tons of rice.

(From Sept. Hispanic American Report of Stanford University.)

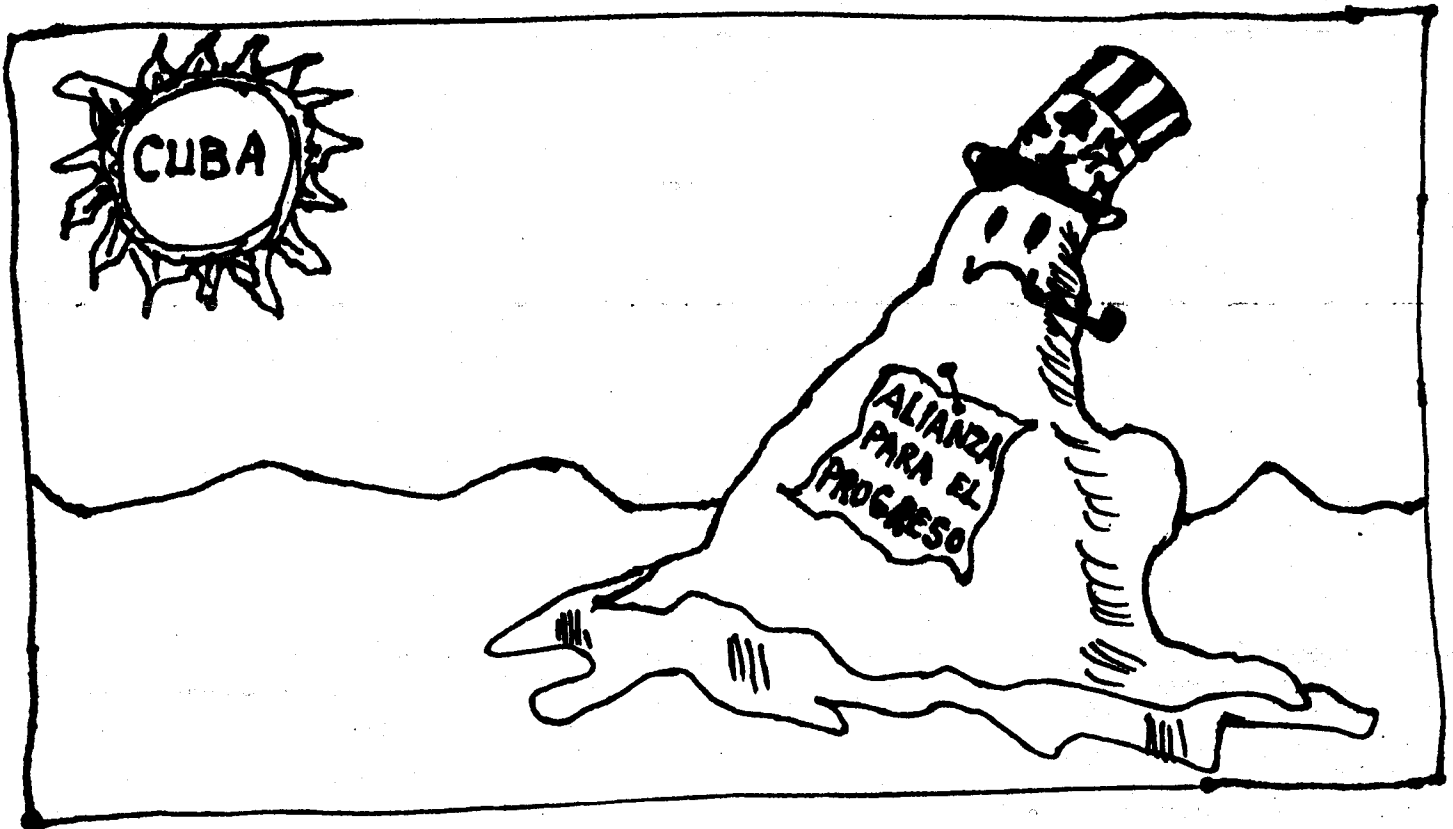
RADIO REPORTS

HAVANA (July 6): The Cuban Public Health Department released statistics on the anti-polio campaign completed recently. 2,200,000 Cuban children were vaccinated.

HAVANA (July 12): Months ago there was another scheme worked out in Washington to cut off all postal service in this hemisphere with Cuba. Through an organization called the Inter-American Postal Union, to which the U. S., Latin American countries and Spain belong, it was planned to stop all mail deliveries to Cuba. After a few weeks nothing more was reported on the plan so it must have been abandoned—for the time being.

HAVANA (July 21): Ceremonies took place today in Cohima at the Ernest Hemingway statue on the 64th anniversary of the birth of the author. Representatives of Cuban mass organizations placed flower offerings before his statue at Cohima where he lived for many years. The Fishermen's Union took a prominent roll for many of its members at Cohima inspired his book, "The Old Man and the Sea".

MOSCOW (Aug. 9): The Soviet Union and Cuba have signed contracts for reconstruction of three metallurgical mills, construction of a new automobile repair works and a fishing port in Havana. As a result of reconstruction of the metallurgical mills the output of steel will rise from 80,000 tons to 350,000 tons annually. At present the Soviet Union is helping Cuba to build two fuel-burning power stations and a number of other industrial enterprises.



Copied from Politica, 1 de octubre de 1963.

The Beautiful American

(As opposed to the Ugly Americans who represent the U.S. abroad.)

The brief articles below were written exclusively for this newsletter by some of the North American students who defied the State Department's travel ban by visiting Cuba this summer—Editor's Note.

THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

by
Susan Helenius

I had few quiet evenings during my stay in Havana, but one of them is memorable. A visiting American novelist was entertaining a group of three of us with a narrative on the Cuban Revolution, of almost Shakespearean proportions. In self-defense I hid myself inside a magazine. It was written in Spanish (which I cannot read), but the pictures leaped out at me—pictures reminiscent of Buchenwald and Auschwitz during World War II. They were sickening. I interrupted, passing the magazine around until someone explained the article. The pictures were of what Mazorra, the Cuban mental institution, used to be before the Revolution.

"Let's go there!"

Unanimous agreement, but my proposal met with no enthusiasm from the novelist. Like many well people he was embarrassed before the sick and came along reluctantly.

Even our guide had never seen Mazorra before. When we approached the grounds we weren't sure we were in the right place. This was a first rate version of what California is like on television! Palms and a low slung version of the La-Brea apartments. The only old building remaining was the Commandante's home and his office, with the exception of one building, half destroyed, but left as a monument to the wretched past. It had iron bars and filthy concrete walls. The Commandante, sporting a flamboyant beard, was one of the two medical doctors in Fidel's original army. He invited us to lunch and introduced us to a young woman attorney who promised us as long a tour as we wished. She suggested we begin immediately after lunch since Mazorra contained 6,000 patients.

Our first stop was at the church where some of the patients were sitting out front doing their schoolwork. The question of literacy in Cuba is now a cliché, yet I was amazed that these people who seemed beyond complete rehabilitation were encouraged to attend classes. A few were laboriously copying the alphabet and as we approached they offered up their handiwork with shyness and a little curiosity. The more alert addressed us with an interrogative, "Russki?"

Tuberculosis is a major problem here. Before the revolution all patients were thrown together indiscriminately. A special ward for the tuberculosis patients has since been built on a lovely sloping hill and we marched thru and spoke with a few of the patients. They were also doing schoolwork.

The sports stadium could have been designed by a Scandinavian with its bold clean lines and decorative flagpoles lining the pathways. There was not a touch of the rococo so prominent in old Havana.

By this time we had a regular troop of patients marching along with us, like very pleased pied pipers.

The housing units, recently completed, were the piece de resistance. As we neared them we all split up and took off in different directions--yelling at each other from various buildings, rooms, and even bathrooms. I began furiously inspecting everything as if I expected the whole place to disappear at a moment's notice. Mosaic tiles imported from Italy covered approximately a fourth of the walls, hardwood floors in the larger rooms, fireplaces, stained glass windows with deep reds and blues offset by a sprinkling of white; and enough grass and trees for a national park.

We couldn't find our novelist friend the following day. He was back at the hospital alone with his camera and his notebook. The next evening when we were all together he began all over again:

"If nations were judged by the treatment of their poor and their wretched...."

LETTER TO FPCG NEWSLETTER

By

Robert Kaffke

We who were in Cuba on the student trip this past summer saw a people determined to put an end to racial discrimination, prostitution, gambling, slums and unemployment and we saw abundant evidence that the peoples' wishes were rapidly being fulfilled. We saw the determination and courage of the people and the knuckling down to production and resulting stabilization of the nation. We saw the medical facilities, schools, fishing cooperatives and farming collectives.

We were impressed most of all with the opportunities for workers, students, and farmers alike. The nurseries, youth leagues, block defense committees, and Womens Federation were other areas in which we had a particular interest.

Cuba and its people are building their own destiny, regardless of the economic starvation blockade by the Ogre to the North and its dictates to satellites forbidding trade. Cuba is a government that serves the people! A government built and directed by her people for their welfare. Whatever name one gives the political system of Cuba one must recognize that she is the most advanced in social and economic standing among the Latin American family of nations.

No CIA or other subversive agency via sabotage, pirate raids, and bombings can ever destroy the ideas and will of the Cuban people. (Not even the Hurricane.)

LETTER TO FPCG NEWSLETTER

By

Dee Jencks

The reason for my decision to go to Cuba was that I wanted to see the country for myself, but as the trip progressed, I realized that the main issue was the right to travel in general. I consider this broadening of purpose the natural result of our trip because as we experienced the great educational events in Cuba and realized the difficulty involved in availing ourselves of opportunities which we rightly should have had easily, then we began to feel outraged that the same difficulties would hinder the study of certain other countries the State Department disapproved of. Furthermore, we had all been taught since grade school that ours was a government of the people, and the thought of how different our policy towards Cuba would be if our people could see Cuba, clearly showed us that in restricting travel, the government had taken itself out of the hands of the people.

However, the other very important matter involving the right to travel is the simple occurrence of friendship among people. I feel sick when I hear someone state that one of his friends is a part of a currently disapproved race or creed or nationality, because he invariably hastily adds that his friend is a "good person". This popular categorizing of people according to race, creed, and nationality to determine their worth as human beings is the result of ignorance.

We all should learn the art of making friends and thus many evils of our society could be fumigated. As we made friends with our Cuban brothers, we could not help but hate the ignorance forced on our countrymen.

* * * * *

HAVE THIS UP AS A REMINDER

Eye Witness Report On Cuba

FROM BAY AREA STUDENTS WHO DEFIED STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRAVEL-BAN.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING:

PAUL A. BARAN

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT STANFORD
AUTHOR OF "THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GROWTH"
AND "REFLECTIONS ON THE CUBAN REVOLUTION"

All of the proceeds will go to the legal defense fund of the students.

Saturday, October 26, 1963
ILWU Auditorium

8:00 P.M.
150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco

CONTRIBUTION \$1.00

STUDENTS \$.50

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Professor Kaoru Yasui, the "father of the nuclear disarmament movement in Japan", member of the Board of Governors and Dean of the Law Faculty at Tokyo's Hosei University (30,000 students) will speak:

Sunday, Nov. 17, 8 PM

Scottish Rite Auditorium

Van Ness at Sutter
San Francisco

Second Invasion Of Cuba?

Although little appears in the press about preparations and plans for raids and an invasion of Cuba, the evidence is beginning to mount that the Cuban exiles are organizing a second attempt within the very near future. According to William Winter in his "Comments", Aug. 12, '63, a steady movement of exile leaders occurs between the U.S., Central and South America. "Home" of the exiles is Nicaragua, although other news sources reveal bases in Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Venezuela.

U. S. involvement in the plans is evident judging from reports your FPCG reporter has been able to gather (According to Cuban radio, reporters at Pres. Kennedy's news conference of Aug. 20 were cautioned beforehand not to ask any questions about recent U.S. aggression against Cuba). Robert Allen and Paul Scott in their "Allen-Scott Report" (Sept., '63) reported that a "phantom" air force was being quietly organized on the territory of a strongly anti-Castro government in Central America for sneak raids on Cuba. The report did not specify the exact location of the base but noted that the plans were being conducted "with the full knowledge of the White House and the Central Intelligence Agency." In fact, the air force is using U.S. planes, bombs and rockets and claimed credit for a raid on a Cuban chemical plant.

Allen and Scott claim that the "phantom" air force is "not under U.S. control". However, they refer to an incident in which an Alexander Rorke, Jr. of New York, was summoned before supervising customs agent D. F. Cardoza, after he had participated in the bombing of an oil refinery near Havana in April, 1963. Rorke, they wrote, was "threatened" with fines of \$5,000 and two years in jail "if he continued (emphasis ours) helping the anti-Castro raiders." (QUESTION: How come Rorke wasn't fined and jailed for an illegal action which the U.S. government says is a crime to begin with?)

The Nation (Oct. 12, '63) quotes reporter Ted Lewis of the N. Y. Daily News as saying that the Kennedy Administration was ready "to give quiet support to any organized exile moves to supply and hopefully revitalize the underground movement inside the Communist police state." In a later article (Sept. 3, '63) Lewis reported that "it is no secret that both in Nicaragua and Costa Rica there are thousands of Cuban exiles, many of them veterans of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, in training again. Others are stationed in bases in Venezuela, rearming for another strike at the homeland. All this costs money and the CIA is one government agency that can spend it in a big way without Congressional audit."

Perhaps the most complete report of invasion preparations was the one that appeared in Prensa Libre (Mexico) in Aug. '63. It claimed there were more than 1,000 mercenaries in Guatemala under the command of Guatemalan Col. Guillermo Delgado Blanco and an American officer known just as "Willy". Under these men in Peten and San Jose paratroopers wearing Guatemalan uniforms are in training.

The article adds that the Somoza family (former Nicaraguan dictators) have provided training camps in Montelinar, Las Mercedes, La Fundidora and other areas of Nicaragua. In fact, the family has even purchased a 30,000 hectare estate in Costa Rica with the purpose of making it a base for the invasion. The largest base for the exiles is at Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic coast. Any civilian found within 2 or 3 miles of the aerodrome can be shot "without warning."

Faced with the constant threat of armed invasion by exiles and now the problem of recovery after a disastrous hurricane, the little island of Cuba faces its biggest test. While the dead are being counted and buried in Cuba after the recent storms,

Washington persists in seeking new ways to overthrow the Cuban government in an hysterical fit of hatred. If the U.S. continues this blind policy of isolation and aggression it is headed toward a disaster that will make the Bay of Pigs and the blockade mild affairs by comparison.

* * * * *

Literature

REDUCED PRICES ON OLD ITEMS

<u>Cloth-bound Editions</u>	<u>Old Price</u>	<u>New Price</u>
J. P. Morray, THE SECOND REVOLUTION IN CUBA	3.25	
William A. Williams, The U.S., CUBA, AND CASTRO	3.25	
Philip S. Foner, A HISTORY OF CUBA, Vol. I	3.75	
Philip S. Foner, A HISTORY OF CUBA, Vol. II	4.75	
(Vols. I & II ordered together: \$7.00)		
Robert Taber, M-26, BIOGRAPHY OF A REVOLUTION	4.00	2.00
Warren Miller, NINETY MILES FROM HOME	3.50	1.50
 <u>Paperbacks</u>		
Fidel Castro, SPEECH TO THE WOMEN, Jan., '63	.35	.30
Fidel Castro, SPEECH ON MARXISM-LENINISM, Dec., '61	1.00	.75
Fidel Castro, THE REVOLUTION MUST BE A SCHOOL OF UNFETTERED THOUGHT, Mar. '62	.15	
Fidel Castro, DENOUNCING SECTARIANISM, Mar., '62	.35	
Fidel Castro, HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME, 1953	1.00	.35
Fidel Castro, MAY DAY SPEECH & Che Guevara, ECONOMIC PLANNING IN CUBA, 1962	.50	.25
Che Guevara, MAY DAY SPEECH TO LABOR, 1963	.25	
Fidel Castro, 26TH OF JULY SPEECH, 1963	.20	
Robert F. Williams, NEGROES WITH GUNS	1.95	
Maurice Zeitlin & Robert Scheer, CUBA: TRAGEDY IN OUR HEMISPHERE	.95	

NOTE! For orders over \$2.00 we will send free a copy of Fidel Castro's SPEECH TO THE UN, Sept. 1960—a classic and historic document.

TO: The Bay Area Fair Play for Cuba Committee
 Box 2615, Zone 26
 San Francisco, California

Telephone: TH 8-5120

I would like to contribute to the cost of future activities and newsletters
 I would like to contribute to the relief of the Cuban hurricane victims
 I am available for volunteer work (help with mailings, prepare socials, do publicity, etc.). State here your preference: _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Telephone Number.....

WRITE OR PHONE FOR THE FALL, 1963 CATALOGUE OF LITERATURE