

He's Up to His Ears in U. S. Army Surplus

What's Fidel Up To?

Cuban diplomats at the UN have been making the rounds of army surplus stores buying such necessities of city life as bayonets, jungle knives and combat boots, it was disclosed today.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in alerting Congress to the Cuban purchases of surplus U.S. Army equipment, said he found it "hard to visualize" why Fidel Castro's diplomatic corps needed the American-made weapons.

He suggested Castro may intend to plant the U.S. military hardware in certain Latin American nations to create the impression the U.S. was backing a coup.

Mr. Hoover discussed the Cuban purchases Feb. 16 at a closed session of a House Appropriations Sub-committee. The FBI is seeking a budget of \$187 million for fiscal 1968. His testimony was made public today.

"We have received information that certain members of the Cuban mission to the U.N. during 1966 engaged in the pur-

chase of surplus U.S. Army-type military equipment," Mr. Hoover said.

"Items purchased have included combat boots, jungle hammocks, military canteens, leather holsters for .45 caliber automatics, cartridge belts, bayonets, and combat knives."

He said Castro may plan to arrange for the capture of the U.S. equipment by authorities in the "Latin American countries he is trying to subvert."

The captured equipment, he said, might "create animosity and suspicion between Latin American countries and the U.S." Mr. Hoover said Castro's "efforts to foment unrest and subversion thruout the western hemisphere" place heavy demands on FBI manpower.

He told the panel the Cuban mission to the U.N. is "engaged in a continuing program" directed toward the recruitment of Cuban aliens in the U.S. to satisfy intelligence requirements of the Castro regime. (UPI)