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Cuban Outrage

Sir: As a former resident of Cuba for more than 13 years, I found your cover story on that country [Oct. 8] most interesting. How tragic to see a once beautiful tropical island crumble in the hands of an egomaniac like Fidel Castro.

MRS. JOAN SEYMOUR

Arlington, Va.

Sir: The Cuban economy is in tatters, but certainly not "back where it started as a one-crop sugar producer." Cuba's economy before Castro was buoyant and quite diversified, although the sugar industry was the basic business, just as steel is in this country. Contrary to what you say, Castro is a very real threat. Nevertheless, your portrayal of Brother Raúl as the archetype of the bastard is quite accurate.

NÉSTOR E. CRUZ GAVALDÁ

Villanova University, Pa.

Sir: The brilliant Mexican poet, essayist, playwright and diplomat Octavio Paz has shown how his country's revolution and governmental intervention in economic life led to eventual diversified development. And as British Economist Dudley Seers, *et al.*, have put it in *Cuba: The Economic and Social Revolution*: "Almost any degree of disorganization would have been preferable to the complete failure in Cuba in earlier years to mobilize the factors of production."

CHRISTOPHER BIRD

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