

## CUBA: FOCUS OF RED SUBVERSION

# More Soviet Ships Pulling Into Havana

(Last of a Series)

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MIAMI, May 19 — Soviet shipping to communist Cuba nearly doubled during the first four months of this year, compared to the last four months of 1966, and reached an all-time peak of about one million tons in April.

The Defense Department recently reported evidence of such an increase in USSR shipping to the Castro regime, but said there was nothing to indicate a renewed military buildup on the island.

Nonetheless, high U.S. officials report that the steady increase in Soviet and communist bloc ships calling at Cuban ports has resulted in intensified aerial surveillance of all vessels in the Caribbean area.

Altho the bulk of the Soviet shipments, estimated at 60 per cent of the total, is believed to consist of petroleum, oil and lubricants, it is known that Cuba also has received substantial supplies of new conventional weapons this year.

At least 10 new Soviet MIG-21FL rocket-boosted missile-carrying jet fighters have been delivered thru the Mariel Naval Base, west of Havana, to strengthen Castro's air force.

The Cuban Air Force already had several earlier model MIG-21s, as well as MIG-15, MIG-17 and MIG-19 jets.

There is no hard evidence, contrary to Cuban exile organization reports, of re-entry of medium-range or long-range missiles of the type that sparked the 1962 "eyeball-to-eyeball" confrontation between the U.S. and Russian.

### SOVIET PERSONNEL

The step-up in shipping has coincided with an increase in the number of Soviet personnel arriving in Cuba by air and sea.

But, also contrary to exile claims, there is no evidence that Russian troop strength there has been boosted.

At the time of the 1962 missile crisis there were an estimated 30,000 Soviet troops in Cuba, altho the Kennedy Administration publicly played down the number. The total now is believed to be between 2000 and 3000 and is

labeled as a "military assistance" mission.

In the first four months this year it is known that at least 440 Russians arrived in Cuba. While the number appears relatively low it represents almost half the total Russian personnel that went to Cuba during all of 1966.

The largest group of arrivals this year are classified as political, administrative and diplomatic officials, about 75. Next highest in volume are scientists, about 50. Only four "military advisers" have been reported as arrivals by sources in Cuba.

### RED SAILS

The shipping buildup has been steady since last August, when 13 Soviet vessels docked in Cuba. In January there were 25, February, 34; March, 47; and April, 51. There also has been a

marked increase in the number of other communist bloc ships reaching Cuba this year.

As the Soviets have increased their sea shipments, the number of Free World vessels carrying supplies to the Castro regime has been declining since 1963.

According to statistics of Unfidad Revolucionaria, a Cuban exile organization here that keeps tabs on western shipping to Cuba, only 209 Free World ships touched Cuban ports last year, as compared to 358 in 1963, 341 in 1964 and 260 in 1965.

Last year Britain headed the list of Free World nations shipping to Cuba with 98 vessels. It was followed by Greece, with 28; Cyprus, 27; Lebanon, 24; Italy, 23; Finland, nine; France, eight, and Malta and Monaco, one each.