

What Castro Thinks Of Chile's Allende



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CUBA'S Fidel Castro has been critical in private of Chile's Salvador Allende.

Not only has Allende failed to impose Marxism upon Chile with the necessary force and to keep the people in fear of the government, complained Castro, but Allende is "physically spent."

The leaders he has brought to power in Chile also "live too well" and "are not under sufficient tension," said Castro.

The Cuban conquistador confided what he really thought of Allende while he was Allende's guest last winter. Castro actually made some of his remarks to Allende's face but spoke more sharply behind his back.

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COMMUNIST leaders gathered for a secret session with Castro on December 3 at the home of the Cuban Ambassador in Santiago. An account of the meeting was obtained by the Central Intelligence Agency, whose secret report has now been made available to us.

"Castro said the U.P. (Allende's Popular Unity government) does not have a solid front to face the opposition, which he claimed is growing rapidly," declares the CIA report. "Castro added that the situation in Chile is rapidly approaching a critical stage . . .

"Among the factors listed by Castro, which could precipitate the crisis and a confrontation with the opposition, was a breakdown in public order. This, he said, could come about at any time because the

opposition, especially the middle class, has lost its fear of the government.

"Castro opined that a government must have fear if it is to control the country," the CIA report continues. "Another factor listed by Castro was the possible deterioration of Allende's health . . .

"Castro also observed the U.P. leaders live too well and are not under sufficient tension to take the offensive. Intertwined into the overall situation is that the U.P. has a 'minority complex' which affects its judgment.

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IN RELATION to the Chilean armed forces, Castro said that Allende is chasing an illusion by thinking that he can count on the Chilean military to defend his government during a critical period. He said Allende is completely mistaken in this regard.

"He classified the Chilean armed forces as anti-communist, and said that the military has not yet acted against the U.P. because Allende has stayed within the constitution.

"Castro added that he had told the president all of this, but that Allende did not respond.

"Castro then complained that he thought the U.P. was not really happy with the results of his visit, despite the fact that he did everything the U.P. leaders wanted. He said he believes he helped the U.P. by his presence, but he added that many U.P. leaders are of the opinion he stayed too long and talked too much."