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Demonstrators in Havana Tuesday waving Cuban flags and holding up portraits of the late Ernesto Ché Guevara and Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Leonid I. Brezhnev, Soviet Communist party chief, during welcoming rally.

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Brezhnev Says Cuba Is Not a Vital Base for Soviet

NYTimes

MIAMI, Jan. 30 (UPI) — Leonid I. Brezhnev declared last night in Havana that the Soviet Union did not consider Cuba "a strategic base" for influence.

The leader of the Soviet Communist party, who spoke at a rally at the start of his first visit to Cuba, said that Soviet military aid to Havana was aimed at "peace and tranquility," not toward any aggressive end.

Excerpts from his speech and from that of Premier Fidel Castro were rebroadcast through the day today by the Havana radio, which reiterated that Mr. Brezhnev's visit was a sign of "unbreakable ties" between the two nations.

The Cause Is Peace

"To the Soviet Union," Mr. Brezhnev declared, "Cuba is not an object of exploitation or of capitalist investments. It is not a strategic base out of which influence is expected."

Mentioning Soviet aid to Cuba, he said:

"We well know, as others probably also know, that Soviet arms in Cuban hands are not weapons to attack anyone nor a means of straining the international situation. They serve the just cause of the defense of revolutionary conquests of the

country, the cause of peace and tranquility."

Havana broadcasts suggested that Mr. Brezhnev spent the day making courtesy calls and in discussions with ambassadors from some Soviet-bloc nations.

U.S. Notes Statements

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — Washington officials concerned with Cuban affairs focused attention today primarily on two statements made in Havana last night.

One was by Premier Castro expressing approval of improved relations between East and West. The other was a

condemnation by Mr. Brezhnev of a past Communist policy of trying to export revolution.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Castro said the "idea of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems is gradually making headway in international relations." Later he told Mr. Brezhnev that Cuba "resolutely supports you" in "your efforts to overcome world tension and to achieve an end to the arms race."

A United States official commented, "This is the first time Castro has expressed any degree of warmth favorable to détente."

The official added that the

Cuban leadership and its press had long been skeptical of efforts at easing East-West tension, "I suppose with 1962" in mind, alluding to the crisis in which the Soviet Union pulled back missiles it had set up in Cuba.

Mr. Brezhnev, in his response, said to Mr. Castro's welcoming speech "Soviet weapons in the hands of Cubans are not weapons for attacking anybody" and then added: "Revolution feeds not on somebody's propaganda or subversion. Nor are the Communists supporters of the export of revolution. A revolution matures on the domestic soil of this or that country."