

A NOTE ON CUBA

The journals of the Communist Party of Canada have seized on some recent speeches by Fidel Castro in an effort to further their campaign of slander against the Communist Party of China. The Pacific Tribune in the issue of March 4, published a studied abridgement of one of Fidel's more virulent speeches in such a manner as to heighten its anti-China tone. These gentlemen do not seem able to grasp the fact that not the C.P.S.U., not the C.P. of Canada, not even with Fidel Castro added to their ranks can turn aside the Chinese Revolution from its chosen path. Only the Communist Party of China could do that and it seems unlikely that its battle-steeled veterans will be frightened by the bleating of a flock of scared sheep.

Cuba's problems are not of China's making. They are the result of policies being applied by Cuban leaders. It is the Cuban Revolution not China, that is in danger.

The problem at issue in Cuba is that of revolutionary self-reliance as opposed to dependance on a single "great nation". A revolutionary people must first of all rely on their own resources, build their economy from their own efforts and defend their revolution from economies within and without. The application of the policy of self-reliance guarantees the independence of the nation and, what is of utmost importance, ensures the defeat of imperialist attempt at blockade.

The question of blockade is an important one to Cuba in its position of geographical isolation and this is a point inherent in Fidel's speech when he speaks of the need to store up rice supplies against the possibility of such an event. But it should be obvious that it would be impossible to acquire sufficient supplies to last for a protracted period. Cuba is in dire need of a diversified economy as a measure of defence of the revolution.

But instead of following a policy of self-reliance Fidel, and the Cuban leaders, chose to accept the advice of the C.P.S.U. and adopt the Soviet-sponsored policy of the "world division of labour". This caused Cuba to abandon her original plan of diversification of the economy and return to a mono-culture economy based on sugar, the very same economic strait-jacket that helped the U.S. imperialist in their domination of Cuba.

This year drought struck the sugar-crop, a development which spelled disaster for the one-crop economy. The Anglo-American imperialist monopolists who control the world market on sugar struck an additional blow by causing, at no loss to themselves, a catastrophic drop in world sugar prices.

Fidel's problems of the Cuban Revolution, are not due to any action taken by China; they are due entirely to the theory of "world division of labour" and reliance on others. Screaming invectives at China from the Havana Plaza is no substitute for a correct policy.