

**April 3, 1963**

**From the Journal of A.I. Alekseyev, 'Record of a  
Conversation with Raul Castro Ruz, Minister of the  
Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, 8 March  
1963'**

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**Summary:**

Raul Castro reports that Fidel read one of Khrushchev's letters at an ORO meeting and approved of an article detailing Soviet withdrawal. As well, Raul requests that Alekseyev speak in favor of his trip to the USSR when meeting with Fidel.

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from the journal of  
A. I. ALEKSEYEV

#### RECORD OF A CONVERSATION

with Raul CASTRO RUZ, Minister of the Armed  
Forces of the Republic of Cuba

8 March 1963

I accidentally met Raul Castro today in the city. In the course of a short conversation Raul said that Fidel Castro read the 6 February letter of N. S. Khrushchev at a meeting of the ORO National Leadership which was held yesterday. This letter was warmly received by all the participants of the meeting. F. Castro has not made a final decision about the time of [his] departure. Some of the members of the Leadership, including Raul himself, spoke in favor of Castro taking advantage of the invitation of N. S. Khrushchev to vacation with him and to spend at least one week with him. F. Castro did not express his final opinion, but let it be known that he would like to remain in Cuba on 17 April when the 2nd anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron would be celebrated. Raul addressed a request to me to support his, Raul's, point of view and during the next meeting with Fidel to speak in favor of his trip between the 10th and 19th [v desyatykh chislakh] of April.

Raul also said that he showed F. Castro an outline of Gaydar's article we sent about the withdrawal of the unit of the Soviet military specialists and a rough text of the statement about this question by a representative of the command of the Cuban army. Fidel Castro completely approved of them.

USSR AMBASSADOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA □ (A. ALEKSEYEV)

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