

July 30, 1959

Radio Liberation Policy Position Statement: Cuba

Citation:

"Radio Liberation Policy Position Statement: Cuba", July 30, 1959, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Released by the Central Intelligence Agency on October 16, 2019, in response to Mandatory Declassification Review request EOM-2018-00930. Contributed by A. Ross Johnson. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/290938>

Summary:

Radio Liberty outlines why it is withholding judgement on labeling Castro's Cuba as "communist".

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

КАБИНЕТ СОВЕТНИКА ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПОЛИТИКИ И ПЛАНИРОВАНИЯ
OFFICE OF THE POLICY AND PLANNING ADVISER

3

No. 26
July 30, 1959

RADIO LIBERATION

Policy Position Statement

C U B A

A. Our policy is based on the following assumptions:

1. The Cuban Revolution, led by Fidel Castro, which overthrew the Batista regime and seized power on January 1, 1959, is concerned primarily with serving the vital interests of the common people of Cuba.
2. The agrarian and other economic reforms proposed by Castro's government affect adversely the property rights of numerically small groups which under previous regimes enjoyed an unusually favorable position.
3. Officials dismissed by Castro for inefficiency, incompetence, nepotism, corruption or other reasons are likely -- in self-justification and in the heat of political polemics -- to hurl charges of communism against Castro and his closest associates.
4. Such charges, whether inspired by certain vested interests or by disgruntled Cuban officials, do not lend themselves readily to objective investigation.

B. Therefore,

1. Radio Liberty reserves its judgement as to the nature and extent of communist influence in the administration of Fidel Castro. We note that, with reference to charges of communism against the Castro government, President Eisenhower said at his press conference on July 15, 1959, "The United States has made no such charges." We also note that such a reputable correspondent as Herbert L. Matthews has stated (New York Times, July 16, 1959) that Fidel Castro "is not only not communist, but decidedly anti-communist, even though he does not consider it desirable in the present circumstances to attack or destroy" the communists.
2. Radio Liberty refrains from giving wide circulation to the charges of communism against the Castro government, because such charges
 - a. could prove to be false and unjust;
 - b. tend to bolster the prestige of the Cuban communists far beyond their deserts;
 - c. tend to create in the minds of our audience the image of an overpowering worldwide communist juggernaut against which any resistance is useless.
3. Radio Liberty is conservative about reporting charges of communism against Fidel Castro and members of his government, as well as rebuttals of such charges. Radio Liberty avoids taking a position

42/78-02715/23/6

- 2 -

4. In news reports, press commentaries, features, Radio Liberty should create the impression that, whether Castro is or is not a communist, our sympathies are with the people of Cuba and not with any vested interests, be they political or economic. Radio Liberty holds that Cubans, as any other people, can and should be allowed to determine their own fate.

Adopted at the Joint Policy Meeting, July 30, 1959.