

Manuel de Céspedes, then Batista, came to betray 'The Revolution', nor as in 1944 when 'those who arrived in power turned out to be thieves.'" "The Revolution" was not the military victory. It was a process that had begun in 1868, continued through 1898 and 1933, and had come to a point in 1959 where the restructuring of Cuban society could begin "to give to our people the maximum of justice and well-being."¹⁵

Looking back, exactly what that meant and how it was to be attained was not clear to Castro nor any of his corevolutionaries. Most communists did not cooperate with the 26th of July Movement until very late in the revolution, seeing the movement as bourgeois. This attitude of suspicion was reciprocated by Castro, who seems to have been more revolutionary and nationalistic than the Cuban Communist Party.

THE U.S. REACTION

During the years of the 26th of July Movement ascent to power, the U.S. government looked at the youthful revolutionaries first with incredulity and then with suspicion, as fear that they were communists developed. Confrontation between the U.S. and the new Cuban government was inevitable, given the historic U.S. influence and economic interests in Cuba on the one hand and the desire of the revolutionaries to redistribute land and make radical economic and political changes on the other. These changes included establishment of Cuba's sovereignty over against the U.S. diplomatic recognition, which was extended to the new government on January 7, 1959, about the same time that reports of CIA-

supported attacks in Cuba began to circulate. Land reforms and nationalization of banks and industries took place.

Canadian and European governments were able to negotiate compensation for their nationals, but the U.S. government refused to accept payment with twenty-year bonds offered by the Cubans. Cuba turned to the Soviet Union for support as economic ties with the U.S. become increasingly frayed, and arms became unavailable from the U.S. On October 19, 1960, a partial trade embargo was announced, and on January 3, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 confirmed to Cubans the willingness of the U.S. government to use armed force to overthrow the regime. At the same time, numerous plots to assassinate Castro were attempted by CIA-supported agents. Economic relations were effectively ended when, in December 1961, the sugar quota for the first six months of 1962 was zero. A total trade embargo (with the exception of nonsubsidized foods and medicines) was announced by the Kennedy administration, to begin on February 7, 1962. Cuba, in the space of three years, moved from a complete economic dependence on the U.S. to a complete rupture in those relationships. The traditional dependence which Cuban nationalists had bewailed for a half-century was broken, but at the cost of sending Cuban sugar to the Soviet Union in exchange for oil and other Eastern European products. Ironically, this break of economic dependence on the U.S. and the development of a new one did