

DOCUMENT

The perceivable signs of the divergence of opinion between the Soviet Union and Cuba (November 30, 1962)

The Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic

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Subject: The perceivable signs of
the Cuban-Soviet divergence
of opinions.

The Cuban leaders personally and the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs have shown it to the outside world several times that there is a divergence of opinions with the Soviet Union, the relations with the Soviet Union are different from earlier relations. I would like to list a few examples.

For the arrival of Comrade Mikoyan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not organize such a reception at the airport as they usually do to welcome not only the prime minister or vice-premier, but a lot of times the deputy minister of foreign trade as well. The diplomatic corps were not notified at all, the Czech, Polish, GDR, Rumanian and Bulgarian ambassadors and I decided together to meet him at the airport in spite of the lack of any invitation. The original idea of the Cuban side was that Comrade Mikoyan would be met only by Foreign Minister Roa and Minister of Industry Ernesto Guevara. Fidel Castro decided to come to the airport at the last moment. He was really present together with his brother Raul Castro and some other leading functionaries. The reception can be considered cool compared to the usual receptions in Cuba.

The original idea concerning 7 November was that the center of trade unions would organize the ceremony. This was like that last year too, when the ambassadors of socialist countries were invited to the celebrations and were given seats in the presidium, and there, apart from the head of the foreign department of the trade unions, the Soviet ambassador, that is the Soviet charge d'affaires ad interim gave a solemn speech. But this year the ambassadors of socialist countries were not invited. Then on the morning of 6 November, they changed the plan and the ORI, that is the Party's Central Committee became the organizer, and the ambassadors of socialist countries were notified on the phone that they would receive the invitation to the ceremony during the day. Then we were really present at the celebration, where we were seated in the first rows. The ceremony itself started three quarters of an hour late. At the presidential table numerous Cuban leaders were seated, the president of the republic and Comrade Mikoyan in the middle. But Prime Minister Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and Ernesto Guevara were not present. As I learnt later, Fidel Castro, his brother and the minister of industry arrived at the entrance of the theater, but then changed their minds and did not come in to the ceremony. At the celebration Carlos Rafael Rodriguez gave a speech apart from the Soviet ambassador. During the ceremony the president of the republic behaved quite coolly, we must say, toward Comrade Mikoyan sitting next to him, and when Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, citing the Fidel Castro speech of 1 November, said that they trusted the government of the Soviet Union and the party of the Soviet Union, President of the Republic Dorticos did not applaud. We must say that the television that transmitted the speech was clever enough not to show him at this point and all other parts when the president of the republic or other leaders behaved coolly or demonstratively, but we could see the applauding audience.

When the Soviet ambassador to Havana gave a dinner in the honor of Comrade Mikoyan, at which present were President of the Republic Dorticos, Prime Minister Fidel Castro and all the Cuban leaders, the next day the press mentioned it in a hidden place with small print and very briefly, it reported only the fact with the comment that the dinner took place in friendly atmosphere. I can see in "Népszabadság" /The Freedom of the People/, which has arrived since then, that our party's paper reported on the dinner in a more conspicuous place, in more detail.

Finally, I would mention the fact that it is true that at Comrade Mikoyan's departure at the airport all Cuban leaders were present beginning from the president of the republic, but the diplomatic corps were not invited, and the farewell can again be called cool compared to the farewells usually organized in Cuba.

This is not a very conspicuous sign of the divergence of opinions, but I would like to mention here the following: During his tour of Europe Comrade Blas Roca was in Denmark when these events happened in Cuba. In one of his statements in Denmark he agreed with the position of the Soviet Union. This was also published in one of the papers in Copenhagen. To counterbalance it, presenting it as the news of the Prensa Latina, the HOY published it on the first page on 31 October that in Berlin Comrade Roca, talking to the Spanish people living in Berlin, said the condition for the solution of the Cuban situation, that is the crisis of the Caribbean, was the acceptance of the five points and the article did not say a word of the Soviet position. According to my information, Blas Roca did not make such statement in Berlin at all. This was published in Cuba to counterbalance Comrade Blas Roca's standpoint. Besides, he was called up and, as I hear, lectured and ordered back to Cuba at once. Although, according to the plans, he would have had to represent the Cuban party in Moscow at the 7 November celebrations. As a result of the ordering home, according to my information, there was no one as delegation in Moscow from the Cuban side. When Comrade Blas Roca was waiting for an airplane in Prague to return to Cuba, he received the instruction not to return but to go to Sofia and represent the Cuban party there. And in Sofia to inform him and discuss the political questions with him, one of the functionaries of the party center at home was sent there.

János Beck
Ambassador

to Comrade Foreign Minister János Péter
Budapest