

29 Mar-66

Q And intimate girl-friends?

A And not so much, only Rosa. On the other hand, the traps are and most like the Soviets, who have soviet politics, would come drink they'd drink together when they did. I have figured that the students preferred the champagne to the traps, not the Soviets. The Soviets didn't see

Q What was said of the Soviet technicians who got to Cuba?

A The students valued them, that is, the students are with the regime. I lived with those who were most opposed to it, the middle class. The peasants are also with the regime. The middle class, is almost its entirety, which was the most numerous. In Cuba what Fidel says is the truth, there's no discussion of it, at that time that's the way it was, if, for example you were discussing any subject with a Cuban and the Cuban said to you, No, but Fidel said this, that meant not that way, I don't know whether it's the same now, but at that time they really loved him at the university. Sure, there were some problems, but the director of the university was Cabellas, and Cabellas was an ideal, a perfect ideal, a wonderfully violent character type, he was a leader of those in the university. In the problem area, Cabellas wasn't saying exactly what Fidel was saying but had his own opinion. Well, then they threw Cabellas out and put in a guy named Rebellon, Jose Rebellon, scarcely in the job to displease the students, this was the only problem the government had nobody liked him, the Cubans were going to take a crack at him, nobody liked him.

Q What other activities did the Venezuelans who were there indulge in?

A. At that time there was a small group of Venezuelans, first they started the Cuban-Venezuelan Institute, which exists there, then they set up what was called the week of cordiality for Venezuela, started a newspaper called Venezuela in Arms, then the paper and the institute undertook to spread Venezuelan news, and with that work the Venezuelans had to talk, about everything they sent me to a tobacco factory, there, in that factory what was going on in Venezuela was explained.

Q From whom did you get instructions about what you were to say about what was going on in Venezuela?

A. Well, as Cubans say, that's not the point, still I, for example gave a talk in the Venezuelan Institute, or Carlos Britares, later Federico Rondon, about the newspapers that were coming, there's another Venezuelan, Villalobos. They all talked afterwards they gave a lot of abbreviations and non-existent stuff.

Q. Then, through Pedro Franco you wangled your trip to Venezuela. How was that trip arranged? Who paid for it? How did you leave Cuba? With what documents did you travel?

A. With the Colombian passport. This is good luck. If you go from Havana to Prague you don't need a visa, then from Prague to Paris no visa is necessary, and from Paris to Bogota you don't need one either, that means from Havana to Bogota without a visa.

JCC - Amicash-1

Source: Atl. to H. 2527 29 Mar, 66