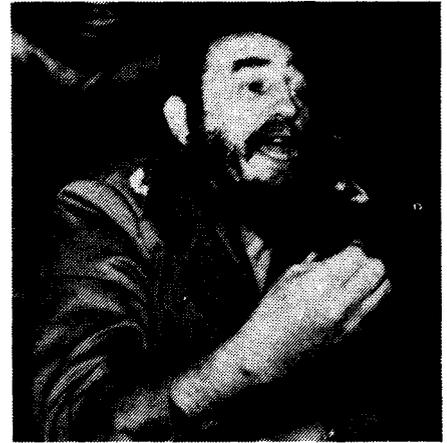


Brzezinski's madness: threat to the Caribbean

by Gretchen Small



Cuba's Fidel Castro

While most attention was focused on the U.S. debacle in Iran two weeks ago, Carter administration military adventurism in the Caribbean simultaneously brought that area to the point of conflict. With the largest American military maneuvers in the history of the Caribbean set for May 8 in the vicinity of Cuba, the Soviet press and diplomats abroad have been warning repeatedly that Cuba does not stand alone and is protected by the Soviet nuclear umbrella. "Hands off Cuba," growled *Pravda* ten days ago.

What has Cuban officials and their Soviet allies upset are the so-called Solid Shield '80 maneuvers, Caribbean naval exercises which, Cuba has charged, are scheduled to go beyond "practice" deployments into live operations. Particular concern was caused by the planned "simulated" invasion of "any" Caribbean island, to be carried out on the U.S. base at Guantanamo—located within Cuba itself!

With the Iran debacle forcing reality on some policy-makers in Washington, the most provocative part of Solid Shield '80—the marine landings on Guantanamo—were cancelled in late April. However, as of this writing there is no indication of any change in the basic policy course coming from Carter's National Security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and the Caribbean generally and Cuba in particular must be rated as one of the tensest nuclear hotspots of the globe.

Earlier this week, two U.S. navy ships, the USS Saipan and the USS Boulder, were diverted from the Solid Shield exercises and have now joined the Coast Guard in patrolling the Straits of Florida, allegedly to aid the hundreds of small boats filled with Cuban refugees now flooding Florida. This, along with the fact that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has moved in lock, stock and barrel to control the new "crisis" in Florida, leaves ample room for provocations and/or "accidental" incidents with Cuba. A new Cuban

missile crisis, for example, would give FEMA national dictatorial powers.

Trading pawns

The assumption underlying the Brzezinski-Carter policy towards the Caribbean remains the crass, geopolitical notion that Cuba, lying within the "American Sea," is the logical place for the U.S. to "retaliate for Afghanistan," safely display a "show of force," and score a significant victory against the Soviets at what is judged "minimal cost." Too far from Soviet support lines, the argument goes, Cuba is certainly well within Brzezinski's now-famed "Long Reach."

Added to this is the assessment by these same circles that now is the best time since 1961 to destabilize, and eventually overthrow, the Castro government, pulling Cuba out from the Soviet orbit altogether. That assessment has added a particularly dangerous, "manic" coloring to Anglo-American planning for the area. The military professional would use the term "flight forward."

Needless to say, the refugee operation, which began last month when a soldier's death prompted Castro to withdraw guards around the Peruvian embassy, and several thousands of "dissidents" took sanctuary there, has created a very destabilizing internal situation, and field-day conditions for U.S. intelligence agents inside Cuba. This, the Cubans naturally view as the "inside" element of preparations for a U.S. invasion. Whether that comes or not, they would be wrong to assume otherwise.

Military siege, biological warfare, industrial sabotage, fomenting internal dissent, cutting off relations with the rest of Latin America—these policies have all been set into motion to maximize the terror within Cuba. As a Georgetown-associated Latin Americanist recently put it, the policy is "to turn the screws tighter and tighter

on Cuba," pressuring them from all sides, and when they are weakened, then move in with "the offer of a big carrot," some sort of relief from the siege—if they agree to split from the Soviets.

In response to these head-on attacks, the Cuban population has overwhelmingly rallied to support the Castro government. Despite the numbers of Cubans fleeing the hardship created internally, most commentators have been forced to acknowledge that the current wave of exiles is hardly the intellectual cream of the island, but precisely the "lumpens" and "social misfits" that Castro has claimed they are.

Cuban insanity

But this is only one side of the Cuban response. The announcement last week by Cuban officials that they are launching an international campaign to pull the developing sector together in support of the psychotic Khomeini regime in Iran, indicates that, on a deeper level, Brzezinski's manipulation is scoring an important victory. Driven into a "fortress mentality," Cuban officials began desperately seeking any and all radical allies for a "united front" against the Carter administration threats.

Castro, when he announced the policy in his May Day speech last week, succinctly summed up their thinking: Cuba must organize its "internationalist friends" to support Iran, Castro told a mass rally gathered that day, a "duty because everything that is happening in Iran reminds us of what happened in our country."

Cuban Foreign minister Isidoro Malmierca also flew to Teheran for talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh over the weekend, emerging from those discussions to announce that Cuba has promised "not only moral but also material support" to Iran "in case of need"—an obvious reference to possible military aid. Malmierca also promised that Cuba would organize support for the Iranian proposal to immediately convene a three-day conference in Teheran of the Nonaligned Movement to discuss joint action in response to the recent U.S. military venture into Iran.

Ironically, Castro's new-found comradeship with the radical Ayatollah has allied him with the very same "Islamic fundamentalism" praised repeatedly by Brzezinski himself, and which he directly installed in power in Iran. Strange bedfellows indeed. Always susceptible to simple-minded radicalism as an answer to complex international politics, Castro's declaration of support for Khomeini goes beyond stupidity into the realm of full-fledged strategic insanity. Cuba now stands aligned with Brzezinski's broader strategy to drive the developing sector into a suicidal confrontation with the industrialized "North," so that no possibility of an alliance for development between the two can emerge.

Solid Shield '80: invasion of Cuba?

by Cynthia Rush

Evidence gathered by the *Executive Intelligence Review* over the past two-week period suggests that a U.S. plan to invade Cuba or Central America may now be fully operative, and could be carried out under cover of the "Solid Shield 80" military maneuvers scheduled to begin in the Caribbean region May 8.

Although the United States regularly stages such maneuvers, the scope and complexity of Solid Shield, together with reports of a number of highly unusual military deployments in the Central American region, indicate that there is a good deal more to this activity than simple military exercises. While as of this writing the Pentagon has announced the cancellation of one of the more provocative aspects of the maneuvers—the landing of 2,000 marines on the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba—a number of other destabilizing options remain in place.

Any U.S. military incursion into the Caribbean would at best mean another major foreign policy debacle—if not an incident to spark World War III. Strong "hands off Cuba" warnings issued in *Pravda* last week make clear that the Soviet Union would view any attack on Cuba as a threat to its strategic interests, and respond accordingly. But, such considerations have never stopped President Carter or his national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, who has vowed to transform the Central American and Caribbean region into an "arc of crisis" to justify U.S. military intervention. In the aftermath of the Iran "rescue" flop, individuals such as Committee for the Present Danger member Richard Pipes are fueling Brzezinski's wild schemes by urging the President to confront the Soviet Union "where they are most vulnerable," in Cuba and the Caribbean.

An invasion is possible

According to a confidential document distributed by the Cuban government and reported on by several Mexican newspapers, exercises of the type planned by Solid Shield have in the past always been carried out off the coast of North Carolina in the Atlantic, never in the Caribbean region. The maneuvers are also unusual in that they include for the first time the U.S. Seventh Fleet, normally stationed in the Pacific, and will occur simul-