CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN ECONOMIC DISCUSSION

A debate has been going on in Cuba over economic issues that has had "international repercussions," Saverio Tutino reports from Havana in an article which appeared in the May 28 issue of Unità, the daily newspaper of the Italian Communist party.

Tutino notes that economists from other countries have participated in the discussion, including a polemic between Charles Bettelheim and Ernest Mandel, the editor of the Belgian weekly La Gauche.

"It now appears that the political leadership has made a decision in the dispute, at least provisionally," Tutino writes. "In a speech May 8, Dorticós took a line that seemed to hold that each side was partly right and partly wrong at the same time. In reality a choice was made that appears to be both realistic and theoretically correct. 'We are very pleased,' the president said, 'that it is the factor of morale that stimulates the efforts of the Ministry of Industry to the maximum. We know that it has been adopted by the Ministry and we applaud this doctrine. Our present and our future hinge fundamentally on our ideology and our revolutionary morale. This does not deny the cardinal principles that must regulate the return for labor in a socialist society; namely, to each according to his labor. In our opinion this principle is completely compatible and consistent with the principle that underlines the importance of the moral stimulants. To harmonize and synthesize these two factors, while maintaining the engagement to reinforce each day the importance and the involvement of the moral stimulants must be one of the objectives of our economic work.'"

Tutino added that "Ernesto Guevara, the Minister of Industry, was not present. After returning from his long trip to Africa and Asia at the end of March, Guevara has not appeared in public. His Ministry is being directed in the interim by Comrade Guzman. Perhaps reassignments in the leadership are in preparation."

MPLA SPOKESMAN PRAISES MAO


"I extend my congratulations to Chairman Mao, leader of the Chinese people, and all the Chinese scientists for their exploits in this field," he was quoted as saying.

"The Chinese people who have gone through sufferings will
never be bellicose," Almeida continued. "I am convinced that the means of defence which China has obtained by relying on its own efforts is also a means of defence for the oppressed peoples."

"We consider this bomb as ours," he said. "The Afro-Asian countries are a community with common destiny and China is our guarantee."

On May 17, Hsinhua carried another dispatch from Algiers quoting Almeida as praising a declaration by Mao Tse-tung denouncing U.S. aggression against the Dominican Republic and supporting the Dominican people.

"I fully agree with Chairman Mao's statement," Almeida was quoted as saying. "It is necessary for the masses of people to establish a front to make the imperialist gunboat policy impossible to revive.

"It is necessary to show our position against the U.S. imperialist aggressions against Vietnam, the Congo and now against Santo Domingo."

"To arrogate the right of 'international gendarme' to themselves, the U.S. imperialists exercise interventions everywhere. For them, order means the defence of their interests. Whenever their interests are in danger, they resort to intervention."

Hsinhua ended by stating that "Luis Almeida accused U.S. imperialism of trying to split the Angolan liberation movement."

Almeida's statements voice widespread sentiments in the colonial world. However, what is most interesting about these two dispatches is that they quote an official spokesman of the wing of the Angolan liberation movement which has been favored by Moscow up to this point. The Kremlin committed itself so heavily, in fact, as to have Pravda denounce the Holden Roberto wing as linked with Tshombe, a charge hotly denied as slanderous by the movement that has been doing most of the fighting in Angola.

Certain partisans of the MPLA, who have echoed Pravda's charges in their own way, considered the Kremlin's factionalism in this field to be an indication that Moscow was taking a "more revolutionary" line and stepping up material aid to the colonial revolution.

It would be interesting to know what the experience of Luis Almeida has been in this respect and whether or not the quantity of help forthcoming from Moscow has not induced the MPLA to try knocking at a different door.