

1. When Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba five years ago he entered on a policy of nationalisation which left Spaniards who resided there without property or capital. Their fortunes are, in simple terms, reduced to whatever they can earn by their own efforts in the future. Many of these Spanish citizens, whether by reason of their age, or, in the nature of their business, found themselves in a situation in which it was impossible to engage themselves in anything at all. Thus they returned to Spain with no resources and, of course, no compensation. Has the Spanish Government done anything for these people?

2. The economic policy of the Spanish Government has produced among other results, a scarcity of sugar in Spain, certainly in the last two years. The fact that it derives from an error of policy is unarguable. It is underlined by the fact that the irrigation applied to hundreds of thousands of acres of land, a claim much publicised by Franco's Government, has brought about these final results:

In 1931:	Total production of sugar		
	beet	.. 28.5	million metric quintals
" 1963:	ditto	.. 24.8	"
" 1931:	Area under production	.. 112,000	hectares
" 1963:	ditto	.. 144,000	"

And since, in addition, the population has grown by more than twenty-five per cent, the massive error in agricultural-economic policy hits the eye. A scarcity of sugar was inevitable.

3. To deal with the shortage, Franco's Government arranged to obtain sugar from the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro. And now the total Spanish imports of sugar from Cuba under this arrangement were valued, in the first six months of 1964 alone, at 22.36 million dollars, as compared with 4.26 million dollars in the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus it can be estimated that the increased cost for the whole year of sugar imports from Cuba will have amounted to 35 million dollars. As will be seen later, Cuba is paid for this sugar by Franco's Government on the nail in dollars. The Spanish victims of Castro's expropriations by decree get nothing out of the value which Castro gets for his sugar.

4. Under the same Spanish-Cuban trade agreements which govern these sugar transactions, Cuba is able to obtain Spanish exports on credit. In the second and third quarters of 1964, Cuba appears to have been getting from Spain ships to the value of 2,074 million pesetas. Of this total she has been given long-term instalment facilities for the payment of 1,452 million pesetas.

5. If these two operations are converted to terms of dollars, it will be seen that the Franco Government is engaged in transactions whereby Castro now receives from the Spanish Government 69.5 million dollars against which there is immediately offset only 10.37 million dollars, being that part of the deal not covered by the export credits granted by Franco's Government in respect of the ships to be delivered to Cuba. Thus Franco, in nett terms, is handing out 59.13 million dollars. This amounts to 3,558 million pesetas.

6. As a tailpiece to this report of commerce it may be of interest to note that letters sent out from Cuba to Spain, Latin America, France, Britain and the world at large bear a postage stamp showing a five-pointed star, what looks like another heavenly body with a long tail - a symbol not difficult to identify - with a hammer beneath, and underneath the heavenly body, the bust of a bearded gentleman whose visage has had its fame since 1917. The star is not the Star of Bethlehem. This Cuban stamp leaves no-one in doubt that its purpose is to inform the whole world that it is issued in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the death of Lenin.

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*14,000 cubans of June 28/1958*