Tapparo finds Cuba Land of Vitality, Friendship, Confusion

At first glance the eight days in Cuba might appear as the perfect chance to judge before returning to the academic gauntlet. Yet as sights of the Federation of University Presses and early days of September — for the people are so keen to see and visit as much of Cuba and the Cubans as possible — our group of one-hundred-sixty-some tourists visited a great portion of the western end of this picturesque island, served by the bounty of its country and the vitality of its citizens.

I know that the purpose of our visit was to propagandize, but no one observed that we did so pleasantly. The cordiality of the Cubans, who did everything possible to make our stay a pleasure, made us forget that this was a journey secretly reckoned by revolution and its aftermath.

Air of Vital Enthusiasm

Our first impression is filled with the evident enthusiasm the people have for the government, barely nine months old. Even young, the older generation, the youth-passed government of Fidel Castro roosts high in the {.

It is not far-fetched to say that Cuba is a young nation, its capital restored to the place in the mind of a man he was a twentieth century Christ — his appearance detracts nothing from this illusion. He seems constantly on his admiring lips, his face grins every home. The toys of the children feature Fidel dolls, and his ubiquitous ubiquitous ubiquitous uniform. The man himself is a picture of strength. Tall, ruggedly handsome, he still wears his hallmark beard and thick Havana shoes.

On his hip is a 45 automatic, the bullet cannot be of a peaceful" nature.

Placing at Government

Cuba speaks of every Cuban as his child. If it is, one might at times get the idea that Fidel's government is a big game for him and his faithful cohorts. There is no rigueur de protocol or etiquette, for at times Castro gives the impression that he is pursuing adventures abroad.

Fidel, who personally makes all major decisions, is rarely found in his Havana or Havana hotel suite. His life is one big whirlwind-stop tour. Frail del Rio in the far west, Santiago de Cuba in the east tomorrow. At times governmental decisions are at stake for want of his signature. However, it can hardly be said that he is not sincere. He loves his people and his country, and they are content.

Unanimous Hospitality

The Cuban people themselves are no less hospitable. From Las Villas willing to find pleasant the hospitality extended made to feel ashamed of the comparable United States "graciousness". Nothing was too much for them; it was all their pleasure to treat the "eternally Anzacinos" as though we were royalty. They tried very hard to impress upon us that they were our friends — and even more so that they looked to the United States as their model of perfection. They never tired of hearing our replies to such queries as — "Do you think Cuba is becoming a Communist country?" and "Do you believe everything your newspaper prints when much of it is right-sponsored lies?"

I tried to answer these questions by saying that nowhere did I see the evidences of Communism, but that certain of the reforms did appear to be of a Communist bent. As far as the charges against our newspapers, I tried to explain that while certain reports were accurate, and the Castro methods of government, American journalists tried to present a true picture of the situation.

They, as mentioned previously, the hope of all ages and classes of Cubans was fantastic. They looked upon this new government as the realization of their dreams. This liberation was often compared to our own civil war for the similar effect it displayed.

Frank Tapparo, '60, is shown upon his return to Cambridge. As one sees, he has taken advantage of favorable structures to accumulate an abundant stock of Cuban cigar purchases.

Building of a Nation

During the sun-filled days the cities are a beehive of activity. Beautiful modern skyscrapers rise to the heavens, and the steam loves of the afternoon. It best the air of a continental city.

The Agrarian Reform

Nothing is the topic of more conversation, except maybe Castro himself, than the Agrarian Reform. This system of agricultural re-organization is designed to take the most of the fertile land. It is not limited to any aspect in the picture of a Soviet collective farm.

By pooling machinery and transportation facilities, the one-hand-handed farmer now has the latest equipment at his disposal. Moreover, all the sugar, tobacco, and hemp is sold to the government which is in effect counter to what we call free enterprise.

This reform has also taken on a different meaning for those who will not profit from the move. The large land owners are not backed by the government treasury, and their farms are sold as property.

Confusion among the older generation, the youth-filled days are the cities are a beehive of activity. Beautiful modern skyscrapers rise to the heavens, and the steam loves of the afternoon. It best the air of a continental city.

The storybook, carnival air must give way to the rough and tumble of modern existence. The faith and hope of the Cuban peasants of the Federation of University Presses, and the siesta hours of the afternoon. It best the air of a continental city.

Cuba must keep its head out of the clouds. The storybook, carnival air must give way to the rough and tumble of modern existence. The faith and hope of the Cuban peasants of the Federation of University Presses, and the siesta hours of the afternoon. It best the air of a continental city.

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General, it must be said that the Cubans are trying. In many ways, though, it seems that the Fidelista government is trying too much too soon. This unchecked enthusiasm seems to lead to conflict rather than progress in many cases. Such predicaments are the result of Communist infiltration. For a man like Castro to rule in a naive "good, boy, good" manner, missteps of great importance could well lead to his destruction.

Castro's Self-Determination

Coupled with this we have the staunchest vitamins which marked Fidel's success. He desires to be completely independent, to an extent that he will not give up even if to do so means economic ruin. Castro is said on a Cuban of, by, and for the Cubans. While willing to receive all aid from American neighbors, he wants to pick himself up by his own well-earned bootstraps. While making some sort of economic stability, success may be his. Failure will lead to national disaster. Cuba must keep its head out of the clouds. The storybook, carnival air must give way to the rough and tumble of modern existence. The faith and hope of the Cuban peasants of the Federation of University Presses, and the siesta hours of the afternoon. It best the air of a continental city.

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