

From the Office of:
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY P.M.
DEC. 11, 1961

HUMPHREY SAYS CASTROISM SLIPPING
IN LATIN AMERICA

BERKELEY, CALIF., Dec. 11 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) said today that Castroism is slipping backward in Central and South America.

Humphrey said that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's recent statement that he had always been a Marxist-Leninist "has weakened his bid to become a prophet of progress in Latin America."

The Senate Majority Whip, who recently completed a three-week trip through Latin America, spoke at a University of California student convocation.

He said he returned from a series of meetings with government, labor, agriculture and student leaders in Latin America "with renewed hope for social progress and the success of representative government there."

"There was a time," Humphrey said, "when Castro was immensely popular in some nations of Central and South America. He was considered a dramatic and successful advocate of freedom and progress."

"But the people of Latin America are now watching Castro more closely, and with greater scepticism."

Humphrey said that he emphasized to each of the chiefs-of-state of the Latin American countries he visited that "Castro is no threat to the United States, but he could be to nations of Central and South America."

"Fidel Castro is a political pygmy," Humphrey said. "But his propaganda activities and his ties with Communist China and the Soviet Union could threaten the stability of progressive, representative governments in Latin America."

"The liberal leaders of Central and South America are beginning to realize this. There will be a time -- soon -- when they realize that it will be politically popular for them to denounce Castro publicly."

The Senator emphasized that "there is much to be done to stimulate economic progress and political and social reform in Latin American nations."

"The Alliance for Progress program is starting too slowly and needs to be quickened. Our information program in Latin America is shockingly inadequate. Our AID program must place more emphasis on agriculture."

M O R E

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Humphrey said he was "tremendously encouraged" by the vitality of the people and the leaders of the nations he visited.

"The trade union movement is growing and is free of Communist influence," he said. "Agricultural cooperatives are expanding. More and more business leaders and landowners are taking a liberal approach to the needs of the people."

Humphrey reported a "healthy political climate among student groups in Latin America," and added:

"Castro is no hero to most Latin American students, nor is Communism the popular cause. In Argentina this year, Communist candidates were defeated in almost every student election."

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