

**Conversation between N.S. Khrushchev and F. Castro in the car.
24 May 1963**

On May 24, 1963, in the car during the ride to the military exercises, Fidel Castro asked N.S. Khrushchev if it was true that Nikita Sergeevich was unhappy with Rashidov for some reason.

Nikita Sergeevich responded that possibly the reason for Castro's question was the fact that some time ago Rashidov was reprimanded for an incorrect approach to selecting a candidate for the position of the head of the advisers' apparatus in Cuba.

The candidate that he proposed, Titov, did not fit the requirements that are set for a Soviet official to be sent to Cuba to carry out advisory functions. Sending Titov to Cuba was, most likely, the most appropriate way, which Rashidov had chosen to get rid of Titov, whom Rashidov did not like for some reason. It looks like we would have to consider the issue of recalling Titov, because his stay [in Cuba] does not produce the results we expected.

Overall, one has to say that we should send the very best of our best cadres to Cuba, the people who would be able to work in Cuba taking into account all the specific character of the moment and the circumstances. Instead, our organizations often send you some office people, bureaucrats, who are unable to provide real concrete and effective assistance. And you, on your part, help them become even more bureaucratic, you provide them with cars, telephone, office rooms, give them security personnel, but all those attributes don't produce anything other than a gap between the people, the laborers and those advisors. For what reason, for example, you give them telephones when none of them can speak Spanish, asked Nikita Sergeevich. Fidel Castro jokingly replied that it is done so that they could speak to each other.

So, since they are not being sent there to talk to each other, but to provide substantive assistance, I think, said Nikita Sergeevich, we have to take a comprehensive look at the entire issue of our specialists and advisors. There are too many of them [in Cuba], and too many of them work ineffectively and become just a burden. Therefore, I recommend that you, together with our comrades, should examine the lists of those advisers, concretely, name by name, and keep only those of them, who actually provide [Cuba] real practical help. All the rest of them should be recalled back home and the earlier the better.

Dictated by translator N. Leonov

[signature]

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