

A.I. Mikoyan's toast at the reception at the Cuban Embassy. November 14th, 1960.

Gentlemen!

Friends!

Comrades!

When I was in Mexico, the Revolutionary Cuban government invited me to visit Cuba. The Soviet government, represented by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers N.S. Khrushchev, gave me their consent to accept this invitation.

For me this was a great privilege. Indeed, the hearts of all the honest people of the world are with the people of Cuba. I had the great happiness to not only be with them in my heart, but also to visit with the revolutionary Cuban people, to shake the friendly hands of the Cubans, and to look in their eyes, full of fire and speaking more than any words.

I got to see first-hand the dedication and love that shined in their eyes, when the leaders of the Cuban revolution - the Cuban 'bearded men' - appeared among them, led by Fidel Castro. During our visit, countrywide women, children, ordinary people gave a rousing cheer to Fidel Castro, and warmly hugged him.

We are very pleased that the Head of the Soviet Government N.S. Khrushchev had the opportunity to visit Fidel Castro in the black quarter of New York and embrace him as a friend.

When I read about this in the news, I said; nice one Nikita! Well done! Of course, he could have received Fidel Castro in the Soviet mission, but that would have been wrong. Nikita Sergeevich did this the way that the entire Soviet people wanted.

[Source: Mikoyan personal archive donated to the National Security Archive. Translated by Sarah Dunn for the National Security Archive]