

ABSTRACT

The Effect of Proximity and Metropolitan Ambitions and Competition Upon Jamaica- Cuba Relations: 1959- 1990

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This thesis examines the impact of proximity and Metropolitan ambitions and competition upon Jamaica's relations with Cuba between 1959 and 1990. These factors impacted the foreign policy and developmental goals of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the People's National Party (PNP). The JLP viewed Jamaica's proximity to Cuba as a liability because it was believed that communism could emanate from that country, thus undermining the security of Jamaica. The PNP on the other hand viewed it as beneficial to Jamaica's development because it facilitated the movement of material and personnel associated with the various exchange programmes established between both countries in the 1970s. The JLP, cognizant of America's desires to keep communism out of its sphere of influence adopted a pro-Western, anti-Communist stance for the purpose of stimulating development through trade and investment. This had a negative impact upon Jamaica's relations with Cuba because the JLP chose not to extend relations with Cuba beyond mere consular relations in the 1960s and to severer relations in the 1980s. The PNP believed that the ideology adopted by the JLP kept Jamaica in a state of dependence upon the west and in order to address this they adopted a pro-third world, anti-imperialist foreign policy which resulted in the improvement of relations with Cuba; which had also adopted a similar foreign policy. This coincidence of foreign policy goals led to the establishment of full diplomatic relations between both countries and the creation of various exchange programmes which further improved the nature of relations between both countries.

Keywords: Michael Alexander Leon; Cuba; Jamaica; Foreign Policy; Revolution; third world; anti- Imperialism; Autonomy and Sovereignty; Fidel Castro; International Relations