CUBA

The Bitter Family

The passenger manifest on Cubana Airlines' twice-weekly Flight 464 from Havana to Mexico City included the usual Communist Chinese businessmen, returning Latin American "students," and privileged Cubans permitted to travel abroad. Among them was a chubby young woman with a Cuban diplomatic passport. "I came to see my sister Emma," she told the Mexican immigration man. He nodded idly and passed her through. He knew her by sight, and so had been sired by one of Lina's many willed "children" who fled into hiding in Fidel's Mama Una Ruz Sister Juanita Sister Emma Goulart's oldest sister, has remained steady selling railroad ties to United Fruit Co., Ravana home into an underground ref- and give President Castello Bran- ern Oriente province were never very close. Cubans who remember them in antireligious measures infuriated his million falls due this year, another $154 the "do law" wife, Lina Ruz. Angel started by Angry Scenes. Quietly, she turned her about saving the nation from bankr UPSK"

The Bitter Family

Ten days later, Juanita Castro Ruz called a press conference and tearfully lied to their cause, sending food and "do law" wife, Lina Ruz. Angel started by Angry Scenes. Quietly, she turned her about saving the nation from bankr UPSK"

BRAZIL

Help from Abroad

Few countries are deeper in debt than Brazil. It owes the U.S. $1.2 billion, Europe and Japan $711 million, various international lending agencies $437 million—then there's another $1 billion in short-term debts and interest. The total comes to $3.4 billion, of which $892 million falls due this year, another $354 million next year.

Last week Brazil's major creditors met in Paris to see what they could do about saving the nation from bankruptcy— and give President Castello Bran- co's revolutionary government a chance to work some sound reforms. At U.S. urging, the economists agreed to recommend to their governments that some 40% of Brazil's debt, which normally would fall due in the next two years, be carried over until 1967 and then paid off during the next five years. As an added bonus, the U.S. has also just approved a $90 million Food-for-Peace program for Brazil, along with a new $50 million loan to help brace the cruzeiro currency.

It seems like a good gamble. In the three months since Brazil's army toppled leftist President Joao Goulart, the government has pushed through a 30,000-unit low-cost housing program, and is now steering broad agrarian, tax and banking reforms toward a vote in Congress. Businessmen are beginning to regain their confidence in the country, and the cruzeiro, which swallowed much of what was going on. Yet to arrest the Maximum Leader's own sister would stir a major scandal. His agents kept her under surveillance, but she came and went as she pleased. Last August, after the mother died, there was a violent episode when Fidel decided to expropriate the family land once and for all. Juanita started selling the cattle; Fidel flew into a rage, denounced her as a "counterrevolutionary worm," and rushed to the Oriente farm.

On that occasion, her protector was Raúl, who was still fond of her, and warned her in time to flee to hiding in nearby Camagüey province until Fidel simmered down. It was probably Raúl who also cleared the way for her final trip to Mexico. Her urge of making a "visit" was far too strong to fool anyone. She took along 21 bags.

Fidel may not have known. "This incident for me is personally very bitter," he told reporters with controlled fury last week, charging that "her statements will not be published in the United States Embassies in Mexico." He then ordered the press never to ask him about the matter again.