

U.S. CUBAN POLICY UPHELD BY RUSK AGAINST KEATING

Secretary Says 'Effective'
Steps Are Taken to Curb
Red Threat to Americas

SENATOR IN NEW ATTACK

He Disputes Administration
on Withdrawal of Russians
—Says 17,000 Remain

By HEDRICK SMITH

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WASHINGTON, April 18 —

Secretary of State Dean Rusk firmly defended the Administration's policy on Cuba today against renewed criticism by Senator Kenneth E. Keating of New York.

The Secretary said the Administration was pursuing a "serious, sustained and effective" policy to curb what he termed the threat of Marxism-Leninism in Cuba.

In a speech at the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Mr. Rusk said this country had made clear to the Soviet Union that it considered the presence of Russian troops in Cuba unacceptable.

"We have been, since October, doing what we can to keep the out-traffic of Soviet forces moving," he said.

Assurances Repeated

Secretary Rusk again gave assurances that the United States was prepared to insure that there would be "no Hungarian-type episode in this hemisphere." This was interpreted as meaning that the United States would not stand idly by if Soviet troops attempted to quell an internal Cuban uprising.

Earlier, Senator Keating declared that despite Administration reports to the contrary, the number of Soviet troops in Cuba was the same as it had been in mid-November after the crisis over Soviet missiles on the island.

"There were and are now in the neighborhood of 17,000 men there," the Senator asserted. "No functional units have withdrawn."

In a luncheon address to the editors, the New York Republican said that recent widely publicized departures of several thousand troops from Cuba had been matched by the unpublished arrival of "a comparable number of new troops." In ef-

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Associated Press Wirephoto

DISCUSSES CUBA: Senator Kenneth E. Keating, Republican of New York, addressing American Society of Newspaper Editors yesterday at Washington.

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fect, Mr. Keating was challenging President Kennedy's report at a news conference April 3, in which Mr. Kennedy disclosed the departure of about 4,000 Soviet troops from Cuba. The President left the impression that roughly 13,000 remained.

Secretary Rusk did not reply directly to Senator Keating's charges on the number of Soviet troops in Cuba. "It is not my purpose today to make news but to make sense," he told the editors.

A high Administration source said later, however, that the best official estimates conflicted with Senator Keating's figures.

The evidence, this official said, is that at least 4,600 Soviet personnel have been withdrawn in the last two months. On the other hand, he continued, there is "firm evidence" of the arrival of only about 150 Soviet military personnel during that period, leaving a "net outflow of roughly 4,000" since mid-February.

The official declined to put a firm figure on the number of Soviet troops believed to be in Cuba at present. He said there had been a number of rumors recently that several thousand Soviet troops had arrived in Cuba, but declared that the Administration's evidence showed these to be "demonstrably false" reports.

In this discussion of United States policy on Cuba, Mr. Rusk disclosed new concern in the Administration over recent increases in the flow of non-Communist shipping to Cuba, apparently in connection with the sugar harvest there.

Without discussing particulars, Mr. Rusk said this coun-