

Red China Planning for War

By Drew Pearson

There are two ominous documents in President Johnson's Viet-Nam file which could suddenly change that isolated conflict into a major war.



No. 1 is a plan for knocking out the SAM missile sites that the Russians have installed around Hanoi and Haiphong,

which could well lead to a dangerous confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

No. 2 is an intelligence warning that the Red Chinese rulers are preparing their people for the possibility of war with the United States. This preparation has gone beyond the mere propaganda stage, and it looks as if a grim decision has been made to resist any further U. S. escalation of the Viet-Nam war.

The Russians are building five SAM sites around Hanoi, three around Haiphong. These will have the range to shoot down planes 60,000 feet above the earth and 35 miles away.

The first emplacement was completed a few days ago and already has blasted one of our jet bombers. This brought new pressure on the President to put the SAM sites out of action before they could further harass our planes over North Viet-Nam.

He put off a decision as long as the sites were inactive, having been assured that the Air Force could knock them out any time. It is no secret that the sites are vulnerable to low-level bombing attacks, and the decision was made earlier this week to knock them out.

Cuban SAM Sites

When Khrushchev was in power, the United States and Russia faced a somewhat similar problem in regard to Cuba. At that time, May 1964, Russia had pulled its troops out of Cuba, including the Russians manning the SAM weapons. All during the period from the Cuban missile crisis in October, 1962 to May, 1964, the Russians had been careful not to shoot at U-2 observation planes flying over Cuba.

When I talked with Khrushchev in Cairo in May 1964, he asked that I take a message to President Johnson urging him to use spy satellites, not planes, to take pictures of Cuban bases; because, he said, he couldn't guarantee that Castro's men wouldn't take pot shots at U.S. planes.

Khrushchev pointed out that the United States had been taking pictures of Russian missile bases for some time and "we have been taking pictures of your bases. I would be glad to sit down with President Johnson and exchange photos to see which are the best.

"But tell him," concluded

Khrushchev, "not to fly over Cuba, because we don't want your planes shot down. You would then retaliate against Cuba, and as an ally of Cuba we would have to come to Cuba's defense."

There has been no trouble since then over Cuba. Of course that situation is not comparable to North Viet-Nam where we are engaged in active war. Furthermore, the new regime in the Kremlin is not as friendly to the USA as was Khrushchev's regime. However, in the eyes of the world we had more of an excuse to fly over Cuba, only 90 miles away, than over Viet-Nam, about 9000 miles away.

Rubber Company Battle

There's some interesting irony behind those charges by Goodyear Rubber against Firestone Rubber that it was unpatriotic for signing a synthetic rubber factory contract with Rumania.

Senators Stephen Young, Ohio, and William Fulbright, Ark., Democrats, both blasted Goodyear for yielding to Barry Goldwater's right-wing "Young Americans for Freedom" and canceling the contract which the State Department had okayed as part of its policy of "building bridges" to Communist nations.

The YAF threatened a boycott of Firestone. Goodyear, in turn, posed as an example of "patriotism," instructing its salesmen to go out and capitalize on this alleged patriotism.

In the files of the Federal Trade Commission, however, is interesting evidence that Goodyear is not too saintly when it comes to the domestic front.

FTC testimony shows that Goodyear advertises "the safest tire in the world," yet it has never established a maximum load for its tires.

"We simply never established maximum load ratings for passenger tires," testified M. A. Wilson, a Goodyear expert.

"Why?" asked Commissioner Mary Gardner Jones.

"This has been arbitrary as a working arrangement between the engineers of the car manufacturers and the engineers of the tire companies..." testified Wilson, "because there are many things which are included in the determination of what is the best tire for a particular car."

"Best in what sense?" asked Commissioner Jones. "Something other than safety?"

Wilson gave an evasive reply.

"I am saying it is simply an arbitrarily workable arrangement which has existed all these years," he said.

Goodyear attorney Robert Crafts also told the Trade Commission: "As long as the advertising is within legal limits, I think we have the legal right to use it. I think our advertising has been within legal limits."

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