

# Anti-Radar Gains Held Aid

By John G. Norris  
Staff Reporter

Recent U.S. advances in radar counter-measures make it more difficult than before for anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down high-performance aircraft.

For this and other reasons, many American officials doubt that Cuban Premier Castro will take military action to stop U.S. reconnaissance flights over Cuba after he gains control of Russian SAM II surface-to-air missiles on the island.

It is true that an American U-2 reconnaissance plane was shot down by such a missile while photographing Soviet missile sites in Cuba during the 1962 crisis. Because of this, many have taken it for granted that SAMs could stop the American overflights if they are fired.

## Forces on Hand

But U.S. experts say that technical strides have been made since 1962 in electronic counter-measures which can confuse the guidance system of defense missiles and make it problematical that they can lock onto approaching aircraft and destroy them. The entire subject is highly secret and the experts would not elaborate.

Moreover, President Johnson and other U.S. officials

have been warning Cuba of the serious consequences that would ensue if U.S. planes are shot at over Cuba. Officials have noted informally that there are large numbers of U.S. Air Force and Navy planes at three bases in Florida and on two aircraft carriers in the area capable of knocking out any of the 24 SAM-II base complexes in Cuba with bombs or missiles.

While U.S. officials have not said publicly what retaliatory action this Government might take if Cuba starts shooting at U.S. planes, the most likely step would be low-level air strikes at the SAM sites with conventional weapons. Such action or stronger moves should make Castro cautious, many feel.

Pentagon officials have said that reconnaissance flights have been continuing over Cuba to assure that offensive

weapons are not reintroduced, but will not give details. It is understood, however, that only high-altitude flights have been conducted in recent months and that probably no low-altitude sweeps have been made since the 1962 crisis.

## Flight Confirmed

In this connection, the Defense Department said yesterday that 16 U.S. pilots have been decorated since November, 1962, for Cuban overflights. Twelve were Air Force fliers and four were Marines.

The Department also said for the first time officially that Capt. Joe G. Hyde, USAF, was returning from a flight over Cuba when he was killed in a U-2 crash off Key West, Fla. Nov. 20, 1963. It previously had said only that Hyde was on a reconnaissance flight.

In answering questions yesterday Pentagon spokesmen did not identify the 16 pilots who have received decorations since the Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Maj. Rudolph Anderson Jr., posthumously. Anderson was killed when his U-2 was shot down over Cuba at the height of the 1962 crisis.

The Department said that Hyde's death was the only casualty in the Cuban overflights other than Anderson, but did not disclose whether

Hyde received one of the awards.

For a combination of reasons, the United States is determined to continue such reconnaissance overflights, even though aerial surveillance of the island would be possible without them.

High-altitude photographic coverage of the 75-mile-wide Communist island could be carried out by flights paralleling its north and south coasts without actually flying over Cuban territory. But military and political reasons rule out such a substitute.

"Slant" photographs by high

## Doctors Facing Trial

Reuters

FRANKFURT, April 23 — Several doctors now practicing in West Germany are among 18 who will go on trial this fall on charges connected with Hitler's euthanasia program, the department for the prosecution of Nazi crimes said here today.

# to Overflights

flying planes offshore do not give as much resolution of details, and objects in valleys could be hidden. Moreover, "twin" stereoptical photos taken from directly overhead permit trained photo-interpreters to gauge the height of objects on the ground.

Overflights also are important militarily, when low-level flights are necessary to clear up doubts or when persistent cloud cover makes high-level photos impossible.

Politically, both from the domestic and international viewpoint, the U.S. Govern-

ment hardly could stop the Cuban overflights in face of Castro's protests, even if slant reconnaissance is as effective as some suggest.

## *U.S. Practices 'Law Of Jungle,' Cuba Says*

HAVANA, April 23 (UPI) — Cuba today accused the United States of practicing the law of the jungle and endangering world peace by overflights of the island.

Government propaganda media launched violent attacks against the announced U.S. intention to continue

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, April 24, 1964

A 7

plane reconnaissance to guard against a new missile buildup.

The Communist Daily Hoy termed U.S. overflights air piracy. It called President Johnson's recent statement defending the reconnaissance missions fallacious and hypocritical.

Hoy said Johnson's statement was only the latest in a series of such shamful and cynical statements on the subject. The overflights are nothing but spy missions over Cuban territory to collect data for Central Intelligence Agency saboteurs and future armed invaders, the Communist newspaper said.