

Cuba Puts U-2 Protest Before U.N.

For 4/11/64

Soviet Joins Havana In Attack on Spy Flights Over Island

By Murrey Marder
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The Soviet Union yesterday joined Cuba in denouncing "illegal" United States reconnaissance overflights, while Havana put its protests before the United Nations.

As the Cuban-United States clash widened, it was still viewed by the Johnson Administration as a verbal battle, not a pressing danger. But its potential implications are growing.

Cuba appears to be laying the groundwork for a legal fight in the United Nations, rather than a shooting fight, American sources said.

The Soviet Union, supporting Cuba, warned that "there can be no real improvement in Soviet-American relations at the expense of the lawful interest of our friends . . ."

"Will Side With Cuba"

These were the new developments:

- The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia condemned United States surveillance flights over Cuba as an "unconcealed violation" of sovereign rights, international law and the U.N. Charter. "If Cuba is subjected to a treacherous attack," Izvestia said, "the Soviet Union . . . will side with Cuba."

- In a 19-page note to U.N. Secretary General U Thant, Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa asked him to act personally to halt the American overflights. Roa charged that U-2 spy planes had flown over Cuba some 600 times, including 89 flights this year, that U.S. Marines at the

Guantanamo Bay Naval Base had committed 1181 "provocations," and that "hundreds" of U.S. aircraft were in Florida, "apparently only waiting for orders to bomb Cuban targets."

- At the United Nations Trade and Development Conference See POLICY, A6, Col. 1

ference in Geneva, Cuba sought condemnation of the United States embargo on Cuban trade. Without naming the United States directly, Cuba requested action outlawing all measures that "constitute reprisals against another state for its having exercised the right of economic and social reform inherent in its sovereignty."

The United States withheld immediate comment on all the statements.

President Johnson on Tuesday said the United States would continue its Cuban overflights, which have been going on since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, to determine whether "any missiles are being shipped into Cuba."

He said the United States had informed the Cuba government and "their friends" that "any action on their part to stop that would be a very serious action."

No Final Commitment

Also on Tuesday, Cuba, in a diplomatic note, rejected a similar assertion made the day before by the State Department. The State Department reiterated that the flights were a "substitute" for ground inspection of Cuba agreed to by the Soviet in October, 1962, but rejected by Premier Fidel Castro.

Many experts expressed the belief that the words issued yesterday in Cuba's behalf were more truculent than the motivations behind them.

The Soviet Union was believed obliged to commit itself to Cuba's support, but it did so without making any absolute commitment of what it would do.

Cuba was not an acknowledged participant in the tacit 1962 agreement that American overflights would be a substitute for inspecting the withdrawal of long-range So-

viet missiles from Cuba. In the withdrawal, Cuba was the grudging party; the Soviet Union also held control of the surface-to-air missiles that could attack American reconnaissance planes.

It is only now, when the bulk of the remaining Soviet troops are scheduled to be withdrawn from Cuba, that the overflight issue has reappeared, raising the question of whether Cuba might now be able to shoot at American planes.

This issue can now rebound in the open rivalry between the Soviet Union and Communist China.

An Opening For China

Soviet withdrawal of its long-range missiles from Cuba, under American pressure, gave Communist China the opportunity to mount its open assault on Moscow as the "betrayal" of militant Marxism-Leninism. Communist China earlier this week declared its full support for Cuba against "U.S. imperialism" in the new dispute.

The Izvestia article yesterday was signed "Observer," signifying an authoritative Soviet spokesman. It was entitled: "No one is allowed to violate the Sovereignty of Cuba."

Izvestia said, in part:

"It is necessary, with complete decisiveness, to remind

the officials of the State Department that the agreement between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union on liquidation of the (1962) Caribbean crisis did not include the giving to the United States of any right to violate the Sovereignty of Cuba, or its sovereignty . . ."

'A Dangerous Policy'

"This is a most dangerous policy with a risk of a new, sharpening crisis in the Caribbean . . ."

"What is this—a cold-blooded proclamation of a doctrine of international lawlessness or a nervous twitch of those who get the jitters from every report about the successes of Socialist Cuba? Or maybe somebody is trying to play an anti-Cuban card in the election struggle, paying tribute to the wild men?"

"If Cuba, as some people assert, threatens the United

States and American military planes therefore allegedly have the right to fly over Cuba, then, consequently, Cuba too has the right to send its planes into the United States air space with the object of safeguarding her security inasmuch as the whole world knows that the United States really threatens Cuba.

"Won't Put Up With It"

"Gentlemen, do not try to intimidate us. If Cuba is subjected to a treacherous attack, the Soviet Union will not put up with it and will side with Cuba. It has declared this before and confirms this now.

"If the provocations are continued against Cuba, the responsibility for them will be borne by those who organize these provocations."

Cuban Foreign Minister Roa's letter to U Thant was delivered Thursday in New York and made public yesterday after it was published in Havana newspapers.

Instead of asking for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council or some equally firm action, Roa asked Thant to take the steps "that your wisdom and experience advise you to make." Thant, however, is to leave New York Sunday for four days of meetings in Paris.

Roa said the Caribbean area again faced a situation that could "lead unfailingly to a crisis of vast and profound international implications."

"Irresponsible Conduct"

"This situation stems, as in the month of October, 1962," he said, "from the arbitrary, provocative, illegal and irresponsible conduct of the Government of the United States of America."

Roa called the present episode "an integral part of that crisis that brought mankind to the brink of a thermonuclear conflict . . ." He said the United States resumed a policy of "aggression" soon after Thant helped resolve the 1962 crisis.

He said that since then, "U-2 planes of the Central Intelligence Agency" had overflown Cuba 600 times up to last Monday, including 89 times this year. He said American planes of other types violated Cuban territory 44 times.

Hundreds of American jet planes in Florida and aboard aircraft carriers in the Caribbean "seem" to be waiting orders to attack Cuba, he said. In addition, said Roa, 1181 "provocations, violations and outrages" have originated from the United States naval base at Guantanamo.