

Flight Warnings Are Traded by U.S. and Cuba

are staking out positions for possible serious actions in the weeks ahead.

These actions could take either of two broad courses:

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro could carry to the United Nations the charge that the United States is violating Cuban air space, and the long-standing Cuban attempt to oust the United States from the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba.

Or, with most remaining Soviet troops expected to leave Cuba by May 1, if the Castro regime gains freedom to fire the Soviet anti-aircraft missiles left behind, Cuba might risk shooting at an American reconnaissance plane. If the

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Checks of Island Must Continue, Johnson Says

By Murrey Marder
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President Johnson yesterday warned Cuba that any attempt to "stop" American aerial surveillance of the island would be "a very serious action."

But even before the President spoke, Cuba flatly rejected a similar warning issued the day before by the State Department.

In one of two notes sent to Washington through the Swiss Embassy, Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa charged the United States with sole responsibility for creating a "dangerous situation by violating national air space and ignoring international law."

The note accused the United States of making "black-mailing and threatening statements" that would fail to "frighten the Cuban people..."

Administration sources indicated yesterday that the sharp verbiage exchanged between Havana and Washington during the last two days does not presently add up to a "crisis atmosphere."

Possible Actions Seen

But both sides apparently

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risk shooting at an American United States used counterforce, Castro might charge it with "aggression" and hope to solicit world support.

No American official wants to predict what the United States would do if Cuba fires at and American plane carrying out the surveillance mission left in the wake of the October, 1962, Cuban missile crisis. But all possibilities are now being once more.

President Johnson told a group of editors and broadcasters at the White House yesterday:

"I don't want to predict any new crisis anywhere. I have enough on my hands now. I do think that it is essential that we maintain surveillance and know whether any missiles are being shipped into Cuba.

"We will have to maintain our reconnaissance and our overflights. Any action on their part to stop that would

be a very serious action. We have so informed them and informed their friends."

State Department press spokesman Richard I. Phillips disclosed yesterday that on March 27 the United States, in a note to Cuba, "reaffirmed" the United States position on overflights. The American position is that the flights are a substitute for ground inspection of the removal of long-range missiles, promised by the Soviets but blocked by Castro. Cuba, however, contends it was no participant in that arrangement.

Phillips also rejected Castro's charges made in a speech Sunday night on the third anniversary of the repulsed Bay of Pigs landing in Cuba in 1961. The charges were repeated in a second Cuban note yesterday.

Castro, among other things, claimed that U.S. Marines at Guantanamo threw rocks and shouted insults at Cubans.