

Russians Still Pulling Out Cuba Troops

Administration officials said yesterday that there had been a steady withdrawal of Russian troops from Cuba during the last four months.

The number of Soviet military personnel leaving the island in April, May, June and July was estimated here at 2600. There are believed to be between 2000 and 3000 still there.

Officials said virtually all Russian military personnel appear to have been withdrawn from the 24 S-A2 missile sites—the long range anti-aircraft weapons capable of downing the high-flying U-2 reconnaissance planes used to survey Cuba.

However, the Russians are believed still in complete charge of the control center near Havana. This gives them a veto on any possible Cuban use of the missiles contrary to Soviet interest.

The Soviet Union's military forces in Cuba at the height of the October, 1962, missile crisis were estimated at 22,000. If the figure of 2000 to 3000 remaining is correct—and American officials believe it is—this means Soviet Premier Khrushchev has pulled 19,000 to 20,000 military personnel out of the island since the missile crisis.