

105 9/4/64

# State Dept. Disputes Miller on Castro

United Press International

The State Department today denied Rep. William E. Miller's charge that the Administration "has sworn in an agreement" with Russia that it will never take action against Cuban Premier Castro.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, said Miller, his GOP counterpart, was showing signs of "irresponsibility and desperation" by making the charge.

In addition, reporter John Scali, of the American Broadcasting Co., quoted by Miller as the source of his statement, issued a written denial of his own.

Humphrey also criticized Sen. Barry Goldwater, saying he seriously doubted that the GOP nominee's suggestion

for a 25 per cent tax cut over the next five years could be carried out without impairing national security. His strongest language, however, was reserved for Miller.

Miller, campaigning in Indiana Monday, said Scali had told of the alleged agreement and that it never was denied either by President Kennedy or President Johnson. The GOP vice presidential nominee's exact statement was: "This Administration has sworn in an agreement with the Soviet Union that it shall never take action against Castro."

Scali, who played on intermediary's role at one point

during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, said in his statement that he had not discussed any "agreement" with Miller or his staff, and had never said or written that there was such an agreement.

The State Department denial issued by spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said: "Any suggestions that there has been a secret agreement is untrue. There is no such agreement, secret or otherwise."

On the public record, the closest thing to what Miller described is in the letter Mr. Kennedy wrote Soviet Premier Khrushchev on Oct. 27, 1962, at the height of the missile crisis. Mr. Kennedy said the

United States would agree not to invade Cuba if Russian missiles were removed from the island under United Nations "observation and supervision."

The U.S. Government, however, has taken the position that this never became an "agreement" because there was no such U.N. observation or supervision.

Further denials of Miller's statement were made at the White House by Humphrey, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, and Speaker John McCormack. They attended the weekly legislative breakfast with President Johnson.