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# Cuba Believed Given Control of Missiles

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The Soviet Union has probably turned over control of its anti-aircraft missiles in Cuba to the Cuban government, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

However, U.S. officials do not appear to have increased the danger to American U-2 reconnaissance planes that have been overflying Cuba since the Russian missile crisis in late 1962.

"We began suspecting that the missiles had been at least partially under Cuban control about two months ago," an official said. "But we don't think Cuba is likely to make any aggressive moves at this time."

## Moscow Ties Kept

This was so, the official explained, for several reasons. First, as Cuban Premier Fidel Castro himself indicated in an interview with the New York Times last weekend, the Cubans probably have some agreement with Russia whereby the missiles would not be used without Soviet accord. And such accord is not likely to be given as long as Moscow pursues a policy of "peaceful coexistence" with the West.

Second, the official said, Cuba would probably be deterred from acting rashly by the "possibility" that the United States would react with the severity displayed last August in the Gulf of Tonkin after North Vietnamese vessels attacked American warships. Presumably if the United States so reacted, it could pinpoint bomb the

sites of the surface-to-air missiles (SAMs).

Cuba, which called for strong retaliatory action following the Gulf of Tonkin bombing, is believed to have been impressed by the failure of the Communist bloc to respond sharply—a bloc attitude that could be reflected after a U.S. retaliation against Cuba as well.

## Record of Failure

"After its record of failure in trying to subvert the hemisphere," one U.S. official said, "Cuba is more aware of the consequences of any action it might take. It knows the hemisphere is united against it."

Officials noted that Castro said in the press interview that Cuba would only be prepared to shoot at American planes after all legal means had been exhausted. They said Castro was probably referring to expected Cuban efforts to bring the case before the United Nations.

If Cuba should push its complaint about the U-2 flights before the U.N., the officials said, then a reappraisal of the SAM missile danger might be made.

U.S. sources appeared to be equally unimpressed by Castro's remark that Soviet military technicians remain in Cuba to form a "solid combat force" in the event of an invasion by the United States or one of its allies.

It is pointed out that, first of all, the United States has no intention of invading Cuba or any other nation to invade the island. Furthermore, the Soviet technicians would not be significant factor in the

capability of the Cuban forces.

Officials said that from 2000 to 4000 Russian technicians are still based in Russia, and that these are not combat specialists.

The United States does not view the interview as reflecting any increased belligerence in his statement that on the part of Castro. But neither does it see any evidence.

We have not seen any statement, said one official, that Cuba has discontinued its subversive activities in the hemisphere.