

Aide Says Castro S.O. 11/15/64 Serious on Threat

HAVANA (AP) — A Cuban government official, speaking privately, said Saturday the western world is not placing enough importance on Prime Minister Fidel Castro's threat to order U. S. reconnaissance planes shot down unless peaceful means are achieved to halt their flights over Cuba.

The western press and western opinion, the official added, "do not realize that American-Cuban relations are headed for a crisis worse even than October, 1962." This is a reference to the U. S.-Cuban confrontation over Soviet missiles on Cuban soil.

Castro said in an interview with a correspondent of the New York Times a week ago that Cuban forces now control Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles (SAMS) and that he would order them used if all legal means are unsuccessful in getting the United States to call off U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba.

The flights were ordered during the 1962 missile crisis to check on Soviet missile installations and have continued since.

Such legal means would be through the United Nations or negotiations outside the United Nations, the Cuban official said.

Last Monday, U. S. officials in Washington said Castro's regime has the anti-aircraft missiles but is restrained by the Soviet Union from using them.

The Cuban official, who has close contact with Castro, said, however:

"Cuba is ready to take definitive action because it cannot allow its sovereignty to be stepped upon. It is an irrevocable matter of principles and dignity."

Some western diplomats have expressed concern about Castro's warning. They said they detected a tone of finality and decision in Castro's remarks. They took note of what they called Castro's "pride and volatile moods."

Other diplomats, however, expressed suspicion that Castro might be trying a bluff to see if the United States would back down.

Asked about this, the Cuban official said:

"Don't be mistaken. This is no bluff. It is a decision that will be carried out if necessary."