

Cuba Flights Not Needed, K Tells U.S.

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He Says Satellites Could Do Job With Less Risk

Soviet Premier Khrushchev has called American inspection flights over Cuba unnecessary and warned that they could provoke a new crisis.

American "spy" satellites could conduct adequate air inspection of Cuba, Khrushchev said, without running the risk of a direct U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

He offered to produce Soviet space photographs of American military installations to prove the accuracy of satellite reconnaissance.

Khrushchev's remarks were reported by former U.S. Sen. William Benton (D-Conn.), who interviewed the Soviet leader in Moscow Thursday.

According to Benton, Khrushchev said the question of Cuban overflights is "bigger than just the United States and Cuba . . . It is something of international concern."

Benton quoted Khrushchev as saying "neither President Johnson nor I want another crisis over Cuba. This is the time for sober sense to reign."

Benton, who is now Chairman of the Board of Encyclopaedia Britannica, recounted the substance of his hour-long interview to newsmen in Paris. No transcript of the session was immediately available.

He said Khrushchev told him that American Samos satellites were perfectly capable of checking on Cuban military installations.

"If you wish, I can show you photos of your military bases taken from outer space," he was quoted as saying. "I will show them to President Johnson if he wish-

es."

Then, apparently in jest, he added:

"Why don't we exchange such photos?"

Khrushchev made similar remarks in talks last July with Belgian Foreign Minister Paul Henri Spaak. Commenting on the efficiency of satellite reconnaissance, he told Spaak

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he might let him "see my photographs."

Khrushchev's son-in-law, Alexei Adzhubi, the editor of Izvestia, also indicated in a speech in Helsinki last September that Soviet satellites were photographing the United States.

The United States scored its first success with its Samos satellite program in 1961. The number of satellites now in orbit is unknown but one is believed to pass over the Soviet Union at least every three hours.

In suggesting that the United States discontinue its overflights in favor of satellite inspection, Khrushchev was echoing a proposal last month by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Benton said his interview with Khrushchev covered a wide range of Soviet-American problems.

He said the Soviet Premier complained that "there is lit-

tle hope of progress in certain areas until after the American elections.

"This is to be regretted," Khrushchev said. "Such a democratic policy as elections prevents sober discussions. This is a contradiction."

Benton said Khrushchev told him that he had great respect for the American "genius" in industry and agriculture, and added that "we want all the knowledge and help we can get from you."

The Soviet leader also had warm words for U.S. Under Secretary of State Averell Harriman and Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.