

Capitol Punishment

Fidel, Uncle Here . . .

By Art Buchwald

The National Security Council was in executive session when a CIA man rushed in with a cable in his hand.

"The Cubans have just made a big oil strike in the Bay of Pigs. It could be the biggest oil find in the Western Hemisphere."

"The dirty rats," someone said.

"Wait a minute," said a man from the Defense Department. "That's no way to talk about the island bastion of freedom in the Caribbean."

"Are you crazy?" the State Department man said.

"We're going to have to help them defend themselves," the Defense Department man said.

"Against whom?" a White House aide asked.

"Us," the Defense Department man said. "Remember, Cuba is only 90 miles away from Miami."

"I say we go in and take the oil," the CIA man said.

"What?" said Defense. "That could kill one helluva plane sale. Cuba will need some very sophisticated fighters now that they have oil."

"Not to mention anti-aircraft weapons, tanks and armored carriers," his assistant said. "I would not be surprised if they order a billion dollars' worth of arms."

"Wait a minute," said State. "Are we going to sell Castro war materiel?"

"Do you want the French to do it?" Defense asked.

"Or the Russians?" his assistant said.

"But we don't even recognize Cuba diplomatically."

"What has that got to do with selling them arms?" Defense wanted to know. "They've got oil. They

are entitled to buy anything they want from us."

"Exactly," said Treasury. "We have to think of our balance of payments."

"He's right," said the White House. "After all, Castro isn't a bad guy."

"He'll probably need destroyers," Defense said. "We have some new ones being built now with fantastic radar on them. We were going to give them to the U.S. Navy, but the Navy can wait."

"I wouldn't be surprised if Castro wanted nuclear submarines."

"We've got them. They're on station now in the North Atlantic, but we could deliver them in 30 days."

"I don't want to throw cold water on a big military sale, but are we sure the Cubans can handle all this sophisticated materiel?"

"We'll train them, dummy," Defense said.

"You mean our soldiers and sailors will train the Cubans in weapons that they may use against us?"

"Of course not. Do you think we're idiots? We'll contract the training to a private company made up of Green Berets, ex-Marines and Naval ordnance men. In that way we'll be once removed from the sale in case there is any flack from Congress," Defense retorted.

"I hope Castro likes what we have to sell him."

"He'll go crazy when he sees our catalog. I wouldn't even be surprised if he wanted to buy our intermediate ballistic missiles."

"Missiles?" said State.

"Sure. They have the sites over there. All we have to do is stick them in the ground."

"When will they start getting oil out of the Bay?" White House asked the CIA man.

"We figure about three months," CIA responded.

"Good," said Defense. "That will give us a chance to make up a presentation. We'll send Henry to Havana as soon as he gets back from the Middle East."

"Great man, Castro," said Treasury.

"A credit to the hemisphere," said White House.

State finally got the message. "They don't make world leaders like that any more."