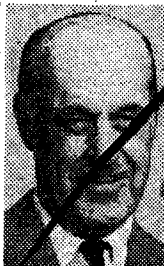


Britain Unable to Pacify Cyprus

By Drew Pearson

British Prime Minister Alec Douglas Home talked very frankly to President Johnson about the low strength of British troops on Cyprus and warned that Britain could only send 2000 additional troops to that strife-torn island.



This was one reason why Under Secretary George Pearson rushed off to the Mediterranean to head off war.

Home explained to Mr. Johnson and to others in Washington that there are now between 5000 and 6000 British troops on Cyprus and that the additional battalion would not be able to prevent civil war. In fact the Prime Minister's aides confided that, in case of civil war, British troops would be pulled into their compounds away from any fighting and would let the Greeks and Turks kill each other off.

"We have no pleasure in remaining in Cyprus to be shot down by both sides," the Prime Minister remarked during his stay in Washington. The extra battalion, he explained, would mean moving 2000 troops from one side of NATO in Germany, to the other side in the Mediterranean, therefore would not be welching on Britain's NATO commitment.

NOTE—The Greeks meanwhile had warned the United States and Britain in no uncertain terms that if the Turks sent troops to Cyprus, as they have a right to do under the treaty to protect their nationals, Greece would consider it an act of war. This meant that Greece would probably invade European Turkey through Thrace.

Rescuing Castro

What bothered the Johnson Administration about Prime Minister Home's determination to sell buses, plus factories, to Cuba was that his announcement came on the same day the Organization of American States was reported to have found Cuba guilty of invading democratic Venezuela.

Thus a great pillar of democracy, England, put itself in the position of supporting a dictatorship which had tried to overthrow another democracy by violence and sabotage.

The United States had finally persuaded Canada to cut off its shipments of auto truck and bus parts to bolster Castro's decrepit transportation system, which depends chiefly on old worn-out American automotive products. The sale of British buses, plus the proposed sale of French trucks, will not only rescue Castro but will mean that Cuba is lost to the American auto industry for years to come.

Murrow's Successor

The backstage objection to

Carl Rowan, able Negro diplomat and former newsman, as director of the U.S. Information Service, arises in part from the distribution of a 30-minute documentary on last summer's Freedom March on Washington.

Showing of this graphic civil rights demonstration by USIA to foreign audiences aroused the unanimous objection of the U.S. Information Advisory Committee, of which Clark Mollenhoff of the Des Moines Register is one of the most vocal and important members.

"I was not against film clips of the march being distributed abroad because I think USIA should cover the news," says Mollenhoff, "but I do oppose foreign distribution of a long documentary without proper news commentary to explain the picture. To an American audience it was a fine dramatic picture. But foreign audiences are not sophisticated and we should not advertise our problems. We are not showing 'Tobacco Road' or 'The Grapes of Wrath' abroad and we should not have shown this."

Rowan, chosen by President Johnson to be the new USIA director, is not being blamed for making this decision. He was serving with credit as Ambassador to Finland at the time. But Mollenhoff says he does question Rowan's judgment on matters pertaining to race relations. While not enthusiastic over Rowan's ap-

pointment, Mollenhoff is not conducting a crusade against him.

NOTE—Rowan is certain to be confirmed by the Senate with no great opposition.

Communist Invasion

Lt. Gen. Julian Smith, commander of the battle of Tarawa landing in World War II, is working hard to block a law to register firearms, such as that used in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Speaking before the Frances Wallace Chapter of the DAR in Alexandria, Va., the doughty General declared that if guns were registered, the Communists could find where every gun is located when and if they took over the United States.

The ladies present were shocked at the General's idea that the United States could so easily be subdued. The General said that Hitler was able to disarm Germany because he got hold of the registration of rifles and that the Allies were able to disarm the Italians by going to city hall to get the registration of firearms.

When I called Gen. Smith to ask whether he really expected the Communists to take over the United States so easily, he quickly said no. Then he explained that, assuming an atomic war will kill 40 million people, there will be 150 million left "and they should have rifles."