

POST 2/11/64

Home Defends Position on Trading With Cubans

Reuters

OTTAWA, Feb. 11—British Prime Minister Douglas-Home today defended his country's stand against the Cuba trade boycott sought by the United States.

Douglas-Home, winding up meetings with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and other Canadian officials, was scheduled to fly to Washington Wednesday for two days of talks with President Johnson.

He told an Ottawa press conference that he expected the Cuba trade question would be raised.

The difference between the United States and Britain on the trade issue, he said, was that "we feel that ordinary, legitimate trade, which increases the standard of living of people, is by and large likely to make them less Communist."

Douglas-Home said Britain

cooperated "absolutely" with the policy of barring exports of strategic goods to Communist countries but intended to carry on peaceful trade.

In reply to a question, Douglas-Home said the Americans were quite capable of handling their canal dispute with Panama. He added "we rather wish they had left us alone the last time," referring to U.S. opposition to the Anglo-French invasion of Suez in the fall of 1956.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the Cyprus crisis, saying "we must get an international force into the island to stop the civil war breaking out again."

He said Britain could do the job alone by taking troops out of Germany, "but we think the Cyprus problem ought to be internationalized in one way or another."

Douglas-Home reiterated British opposition to placing

the proposed international force under the control of the United Nations Security Council, where Russia would be able to exercise a veto.

He said that no decisions had been made about a formula, and that Britain would be "happy to have a U.N. link provided it does not hamstring the activities of the force and defeat its purpose."

Discussing East-West issues, Douglas-Home said that Russia had ruled out war as an instrument of national policy but that the West must try to persuade the Soviet Union and Communist China that the chaos arising from subversion was detrimental to their own interests.

Douglas-Home touched on the same theme tonight in a dinner address to the Empire Club of Canada in Toronto.

The only way to serve hu-

manity, he said, "is to jettison the ideological conflict and organize the world for peace and prosperity."