

POST

U.S. Criticism On Cuba Deal Irks British

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The Washington Post Foreign Service
LONDON, Feb. 10—Both sides in the House of Commons today backed up the Government's stand that Britain should not let American complaints interfere with its Cuban trade.

Emrys Hughes, a Labor Party member, said Britain should go right ahead with a proposed sale of buses and "not be in any way intimidated or bullied by the U.S."

Replying for the Government, Robert Mathew of the Foreign Office said, "You can be fully satisfied that you can rely on representatives of this Government in all such matters on all occasions."

From the Conservative back-benchers, the support went even further. Sir Arthur Vere Harvey said the foreign Office should tell Sen. Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) that "we reserve the right to ship commercial products to any country we please."

Harvey went on to say that Goldwater should be asked if he will refrain from sending arms to Indonesia, but the question was ruled out of order on the grounds that Question Time in Parliament is addressed to British Ministers, not U.S. Senators.

The exchange reflected the general attitude here, emphasized by newspapers of all shades, that the United States is unreasonable in trying to hold its Cuban boycott.

Sparks of resentment are invariably touched off here each time the British feel, as they do on the Cuban trade issue, that they are being singled out for blame when many other allies are doing the same or worse.

Nor is there any effort to conceal British determination to look for trade wherever it can be found, within the limits of the ban on strategic exports to the Communists.

The United States is pushing as hard as it can for markets, officials argue, regardless of whether it means pushing out traditional British suppliers. So, they say, why should Britain refuse what business it can get?