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Rusk Warns of Cuba As Free World Threat

The Washington Post Foreign Service

THE HAGUE, May 12 — Secretary of State Dean Rusk today asked the NATO countries to regard Cuba as a serious security issue that could cause new difficulties for the entire Free World.

Cuba is the most explosive problem before the United States, Latin America and perhaps all the Allies, Rusk told the NATO Council on the first day of its spring meeting here.

The most immediate danger could arise, he said, from Cuban interference with American surveillance [by U-2 planes]. The United States considers this air surveillance vital to check on missiles in Cuba. This issue, Rusk warned, could blow up very quickly.

Subversion aboard by the Castro regime also constitutes a menace, Rusk asserted, and Cuba is not large enough for Castro's ambitions. The United States has evidence of Cuban subversion in at least six other Latin American countries.

In a wide ranging review of world affairs, which included a plea to NATO countries for more material and moral help to South Viet-nam, Rusk assured the Allies there were no signs of any breakthroughs in bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union that would produce historically important changes of position.

He nevertheless urged the continuation of multilateral efforts to find agreement in the field of disarmament, particularly on nondissemination of nuclear weapons,

"bonfires" of obsolete weapons and policies of "mutual example".

In other development:

• German Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder asserted that too much silence on the question of German reunification would produce a frozen situation. The Soviet Union, he noted, has excluded Germany from all its proposed measures to reduce tensions.

• American, British and French Foreign Ministers met last night in what informed sources said was an exploration of how far France is willing to go in any nuclear nondissemination agreement.

• According to French sources, quoted by associated press, France promised to keep its nuclear weapons and secrets to itself.

• Canadian Foreign Minister Paul Martin announced an invitation to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and the Netherlands to send representatives to Ottawa this summer to discuss creation of a permanent United Nations peacekeeping force. These countries have earmarked troops for the U. N.

Martin called upon Greece and Turkey to recognize the contributions others are making to contain the Cyprus conflict and implied that they could make a few sacrifices themselves.

Belgian Foreign Minister Paul Henri Spaak was reported planning to probe French intentions about reform of NATO in closed session Wednesday. The United

States has discouraged a direct confrontation with France.

• British Foreign Secretary R. A. Butler, stressing the British wish to participate in all discussions of European unity, suggested the possibility of a political roof over the Common Market and the European Free Trade Association together.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Joseph Luns termed the proposal interesting.

Butler also said differences over trade policy toward Cuba should not obscure the fact that members of NATO are pursuing the same ends.

[London, Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home told the House of Commons British trade with Cuba is on the rise and the government does not plan to stop ordinary business deals, reported AP. The House cheered.]

In his discussion of East-West affairs, Rusk depicted Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev as caught in a contradiction, in that he may want a period of quiet but may not be able to go as far as he wishes in agreement with the West because of Chinese charges that he is abandoning the Communist revolution.

One consequence, Rusk suggested, might be to push Khrushchev into more rigid positions, as on his current African trip.

He praised German efforts

to build trade ties with the countries of Eastern Europe which, he said, show a wish to play stronger national roles and nostalgia for links with the West.

In his review of the Cuban situation Rusk said that although Soviet military personnel have been leaving the island there are still too many there to suit the United States.

There is reason to believe Russian troops have trained Cubans to operate weapons left behind, including surface to air missiles, and that these will be turned over to Cuba. The United States fears the Castro regime may be less restrained about using them than the Soviet Union.

American surveillance of Cuba was undertaken unilaterally, Rusk explained, after the Russians had agreed to the principle of on-site inspections and a nuclear-free zone in Latin America but had been unable to persuade the Castro regime to comply.