

## **Cuban-Crisis Phone Block Is Revealed**

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At a climactic moment of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, the secret scrambler phone between the White House and NATO Supreme Commander Lauris Norstad went out of order, Norstad revealed yesterday.

The retired General told a Senate subcommittee, in commenting on NATO communications, that President Kennedy had called him at his home at 3 a.m. Paris time on Saturday, Oct. 27, the day Nikita S. Khrushchev proposed trading American missiles in Turkey for Soviet missiles in Cuba.

But the "phone went out," said Norstad. "He sounded like a squirrel. We had to start talking pretty much in the open."

Norstad later explained to a reporter that the scrambler system, designed to prevent enemy eavesdropping, had failed and that he and the President had to talk in the "clear" without any protection. But he added that they did so guardedly and after having established in secret the basis of their conversation.