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The 7th Fleet flagship Oklahoma City backs away from a dock at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, with the help of a fleet tug to head for Vietnamese waters. Vice Adm. Roy L. Johnson was aboard the flagship when it sailed south yesterday.

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Cuba Shows Fear of U.S. Attack In Blast at Retaliation in East

By Dan Kurzman
Staff Reporter

HAVANA, Aug. 6 — The Cuban Government has violently condemned the retaliatory attacks by U.S. forces on North Viet-Nam, viewing the situation as a test case that could affect Cuban security in the future.

Premier Fidel Castro and President Osvaldo Dorticos issued a declaration last night exhorting "all peace-loving people" to come to North Viet-Nam's support. "We must help North Viet-Nam turn back aggression," the declaration stated.

This announcement of solidarity with the North Vietnamese is believed to signify more than a routine expression of support. The decisiveness of President Johnson's action has served to point up to the Cubans their own militarily vulnerable position.

They see a distinct parallel between the confrontation of U.S. and North Vietnamese forces in Viet-Nam and the uneasy situation at the American-occupied Guantanamo naval base. The Cubans claim that U.S. Marines have killed or wounded several Cuban soldiers in the vicinity of the base these last few weeks.

At the July 26 celebration in Santiago de Cuba, Castro warned that if U.S. soldiers "continue to shoot" Cubans, the Cubans would shoot back—a switch from his previous position that Cuba could not be provoked into retaliation that might give the United States an excuse to overrun the island.

The Cuban leaders, therefore, are seeking a clue to their own possible fate in the reaction of Red China and the Soviet Union to the U.S. attack. If the reaction is largely limited to verbal bluster, many Cubans seem to fear, they can expect a similarly limited reaction should Cuba be attacked.

A strong military response by the Red powers, on the other hand, would offer some reassurance that Cuba would not stand alone in the event of a U.S. assault.

Cuba appears to be particularly concerned about the reaction of the Soviet Union, upon whom it must ultimately

depend for its security. The Soviet Union has often said that an attack on Cuba would be regarded as an attack on itself.

It is feared by some Cubans that because of the bitter dispute between Moscow and Peking, the Soviet Union may not come very forcefully to North Viet-Nam's support. The Cubans are not unaware of the recent hints in the Soviet press that China might not be able to depend on Soviet aid in the event of a war in Asia.

If Moscow applied this policy to the present Viet-Nam situation for tactical political purposes, it is felt, such pur-

poses might also take precedence one day over the promise of aid to Cuba in case of a U.S. attack. It is not forgotten that the Soviet Union, without consulting Cuba, made a deal with the United States to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba during the 1962 missile crisis.

Reflecting the touchiness of this question, Cuban officials are quick to argue that whatever the differences between Red China and the Soviet Union the two countries will support each other in any case involving "imperialist aggression's against a Communist nation."