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# The Challenge Presented by Cuba

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**WHEN THE** National Critical Issues Council recently released a position paper on Cuba, a few prominent political leaders and many other Americans charged that we had urged a militant policy that would lead to war. The sentiment was expressed that we were making much ado about a mere "nuisance" named Fidel Castro.

I cannot emphasize enough the folly of thinking of Castro as a "nuisance" and of Cuba as a tiny harmless island. Vital issues are at stake in Cuba, including the future and freedom of Latin America, the workability of our Free World alliance, the very security of the United States, and the success of the Alliance for Progress.

**TWO FUNDAMENTAL** questions must be asked: Is Cuba — now a Western Hemisphere outpost for international communism — a serious threat to the security of Latin America and the United States? Is it essential that international communism be removed from this hemisphere? The Critical Issues Council has answered "yes" to both questions.

The threat to hemispheric security should be clear. Khrushchey and Castro were caught stealthily installing long-range offensive missiles in Cuba. Had they succeeded, the balance of power in the world would have shifted perilously and we might now be living three minutes from nuclear devastation. Even now, intelligence sources cannot say for sure that there are no offensive missiles hidden in Cuba, and our continuing overflights prove our uncertainty and our fear that another attempt may be made to install offensive missiles.

**WITH A** formidable arsen-

Fidel  
Castro



al of tactical missiles, troops and conventional weapons, Cuba ranks second only to the United States as a military power in this hemisphere. Operating from such strength, it has been exporting violence and international communism to other Latin American nations.

Proof exists that Cuba organized and armed the assaults against the Venezuelan government and that Castro agents helped incite Panamanians to riot and attack United States soldiers in the Canal Zone last January. The recent military takeover in Brazil was accomplished in large part to prevent the Communists from gaining control in that country.

Khrushchey is not interested in Cuba as such. He is interested in all of Latin America, and Cuba is the lever he would use to pry it loose from the Free World.

**IF WE DO NOT** confront international communism in Cuba, we will be forced to meet it in Brazil or Bolivia or Venezuela or elsewhere in Latin America. And because it will not be contained in Cuba, it must be removed from Cuba.

The Critical Issues Council does not advocate a United States invasion of Cuba. In fact, the council paper recommends a policy which will greatly reduce the possibility of military conflict if it succeeds. But we should be ready to use force and we should let it be known that we are.

It would truly be dangerous and irresponsible if we were to give Russia or Red China reason to believe that the United States would not fight to keep international communism from capturing Latin America.

The Critical Issues Council offers a program that would bring Castro to his knees without war. This is clear in the following recommendations:

**ONE** — The Free World should no longer recognize Castro's regime as the legitimate government of Cuba, but should recognize and

work with an exile government just as we worked with the Free French in World War II.

**TWO** — The Cuban government-in-exile should rally the 300,000 Cuban refugees; it should call upon the Free World for moral, financial, and political support; it should organize an army; it should send out representatives to spread the truth throughout the hemisphere; it should combat Castro's propaganda effort.

**THREE** — The United States and Great Britain should stop hampering Cuban exiles in their efforts to raid Cuba.

**FOUR** — The United States must do everything possible to persuade the Free World to end completely all trade and travel with Cuba. If we cannot get the support of our allies, the United States would be justified in selectively withdrawing its aid and power now committed to protecting certain other areas so that it can concentrate its energies in protecting our own highest priority interests.

**FIVE** — Before such a drastic move, the president of the United States should call a diplomatic conference of leading free nations in an

effort to re-unify the Free World against each serious Communist probe.

**SIX** — The United States should initiate action within the Organization of American States to strengthen the policy of collective action, to isolate Cuba completely, to persuade other American republics to withdraw recognition from Cuba and recognize and aid a government-in-exile.

**SEVEN** — The United States — in co-operation with the OAS and the exile government — should intensify its counter-propaganda effort in Latin America.

**EIGHT** — Finally, the United States must reassess the Alliance for Progress and seek new ways to make it effective.

In 1923, Lenin boasted: "First we will take eastern Europe, then the masses of Asia, then we will encircle the United States, which will be the last bastion of capitalism. We will not have to attack. It will fall like an over-ripe fruit into our hands."

Think about that. Much of eastern Europe and Asia are enslaved, and the Communists press onward. In Cuba, the "encirclement" has begun. The question only remains: Will it be reversed in Cuba?