

## Cuba Screams at U. S. 'Inhumanity,' Then Turns Over Drugs to Ghana

**I**F this is co-existence, I'm Whittier's father. Soviet broadcasters and diplomats are whipping up a propaganda storm skillfully designed to give the U. S. the image of a nation intent on starving babies and forcing their deaths by depriving them of vital medicines.

Through its diplomats in many cities across the world and in broadcasts from Moscow in several languages, the U. S. S. R. is steadily accusing the U. S. of deliberately and "inhumanely" cutting Cuba off from much-needed drugs.

This story — which has an O. Henry ending — began in early May when the Castro government put out feelers for the purchase of millions of dollars worth of drugs in the U. S. Shortly thereafter the U. S. Department of Commerce announced that all drugs sold to Cuba would need a federal export license.

A few days later, on May 19 — and this date is important — Moscow's Tass International Service broadcast in English a virulent attack on the U. S. The broadcast, which was read under a Havana dateline, contained the text of a letter dispatched to the U. S. by Cuba's foreign minister, Raul Roa, through the Swiss ambassador. The note charged that the United States' drug policy "fully exposes and reveals before the world its misanthropic and criminal nature."

The following day, May 20, a Moscow commentator named Orlov broadcast the following in Spanish:

"By adopting this decision (the commerce department's rule — VR) the enemies of Cuba have again unmasked themselves to the eyes of the world, and this time in a very clear way, as cynical hypocrites who disregard the elementary human

and moral norms . . . This is the only thing which . . . the U. S. ruling circles have achieved with their decision to impose an embargo on medicines and foodstuffs, including children's food."

On the same day, the Cuban Domestic (radio) Service got into the ax-swinging act.

"The Yankee government, in its long chain of aggressions against the Cuban people, has ordered, through its department of commerce, the embargo of medicines destined for our country," the union said. "This stupid measure once again characterizes the Yankees and once again demonstrates the intention of the U. S. . . . to attack the Cuban people and their triumphant revolution by all means. In view of this criminal act . . . medical workers, aware of the duties they have in the society we are building, are more determined than any other sector to reply to the embargo on medications with more enthusiasm in our work."

Now let's switch this scenario to a government building in Africa — location: Accra, capitol of pro-Communist Ghana; time: noon; date: May 18.

At that time and place, Cuban ambassador Gonzalez was addressing himself to Ghanaian Minister of Health Joseph Kodjo. The Cuban presented the representative of the Ghanaian government with bills of lading covering a big shipment — of drugs!

Senor Gonzalez said this was the beginning both of "further presentations" of vast quantities of drugs and of cooperation "in the field of medicine between Cuba and Ghana." He also wished the new health minister success in his post.

"This gift of drugs," replied Kodjo, "demonstrates the cordial relations between our two countries." He assured the ambassador that "Ghana stands solidly behind Cuba at all times."

"Obviously what Cuba had attempted to do early in May was to obtain huge supplies of drugs from the U. S., using some of them on its own island but shipping most of them to African nations for prestige and political propaganda purposes. A check on other capitals on the burgeoning continent discloses that Cuba had made other such commitments — which Fidel Castro expected to fulfill by trans-shipping our supplies.