

Hardliners in GOP Urge Cuban Thrust

By Marquis Childs

WHY NOT GO after the source of infection? With increasing urgency as the unrest in Latin America spreads this is being put not as a question but a demand. The source, needless to say, is Cuba.

Gerald R. Ford, Republican leader in the House, who has given the Administration unequivocal support on Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic, is today troubled by doubts. He says that of several suggestions he would like to put to President Johnson perhaps the most important is for a blockade of Cuba.

He talks of being in on the take-offs as well as the crash landings. The growing feeling of the menace of Castro's Cuba and the need to do something about it was reflected in House debate on the foreign aid bill. Offering an amendment banning assistance to any country helping—and by implication trading with—Cuba, Rep. William C. Cramer (R-Fla.), called for cutting out "the cancer of communism."

Rep. Melvin R. Laird (R-Wis.), chairman of the Platform Committee at last year's convention, appealed "for a clear return to the Kennedy doctrine that the export of communism for Cuba will not be tolerated in this hemisphere." Quoting the President as declaring that the rebels in the Dominican Republic had been "taken over" by a "band of Communist conspirators," Laird expressed a dim view of proposals to form a coalition Dominican government that would include the rebels.

HAVING SUPPORTED the President, these Republicans are now beginning to say that he is not going far enough. The price of their continued backing may be further steps that Mr. Johnson will feel he cannot risk. The first small cloud on the horizon suggests the kind of controversy arising in the Korean War when the demand grew to attack the "privileged sanctuary" in China.

A blockade of Cuba aimed at keeping out all shipping would be a radical step with unforeseeable consequences. Ships of the Soviet Union carry supplies vital to Castro's wavering economy. Moscow might respond with a blockade of Berlin and a confrontation like that in the

Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

But another element cannot be ignored. Ships flying the flags of certain of America's allies go in and out of Havana. To stop this trade, which is actually very small, by force would put a new strain on the alliance.

Nevertheless, pressures are building up revealing how Cuba, with the humiliation of the Bay of Pigs and the profound shock of the missile crisis, underlies fears of spreading disorder and revolt South of the Border. To blockade or not to blockade, to invade or not to invade, even to put the problem in these terms is to suggest how infinitely complex is the Cuban puzzle.

Cuban exiles are deeply divided. Those who supported the revolution against the Batista dictatorship and then were deeply disillusioned with Castro's Communist take-over have believed until recently that an internal revolt was building up. They have long been convinced that any attempt with American help to restore the Cuba of Batista would mean an American occupation into an unforeseeable future.

ON THE OTHER hand, embittered exiles out of the Bay of Pigs—many were active supporters of Barry Goldwater last fall—constantly press for action. They publish *Diario las Americas*, which many exiles believe is subsidized by the Central Intelligence Agency. A recent editorial in *Diario* said:

"If no action is taken at the reasonably shortest time to expel Russia from Cuba, the Communist subversion will continue in almost all the countries of the hemisphere, halting progress, undermining the foundations of republicanism and, above all, creating chaos which the Communists so much seek."

An earlier editorial signed by Sergio Carbo, a member of the revolutionary council of the Bay of Pigs operation, denounced American efforts to achieve a compromise coalition government in the Dominican Republic. Specifically Carbo attacked John Bartlow Martin, the President's personal emissary in Santo Domingo, and the Papal Nuncio, Msgr. Emanuele Clarizio, for treating with the rebels. Anything short of full recognition for the military junta and General Wessin y Wessin would be "only a mere expression of brutal imperialism."

An internal revolt with the forces of a free and democratic Cuba taking control would be an ideal solution. But the ideal is today only a dim hope.