

In Spite of Fiascos and Criticism From Allies

# U.S. World Prestige Apparently Rising Once More

By JULES LOH  
Of the Associated Press

During Istanbul's annual Republic Day ceremonies last May, a holiday crowd of Turks watched with silent curiosity as delegations of foreign diplomats arrived at the reviewing stand, flags fluttering from the fenders of each gleaming sedan.

When the car bearing the American flag drove up, the crowd spontaneously waved and cheered.

A small thing, perhaps. But like other seemingly insignifi-

cant manifestations of friendliness — a photograph of President Kennedy above a Venezuelan official's desk, the silencing of a group of anti-U.S. rowdies at an Argentine labor rally — they enter, on the positive side, into the picture of current attitudes abroad toward the United States.

The balance sheet, as brought out in an Associated Press survey of key world capitals, includes debits as well as credits.

Virtually Unanimous Criticism  
America's racial difficulties

are distressing to many foreign-

ers. A number of Frenchmen and Britons feel America somehow fails to stand by her old allies.

The conception of Americans as money bags is still widespread abroad — to the point where some Brazilians, for example, can't understand why touring U. S. school teachers are so tight with a buck.

The Cuban invasion met with virtually unanimous foreign criticism, though in Italy it seemed directed less at the

launching of the attack than at

the fact of its failure. How people feel toward the nation is part of its prestige

abroad, a term impossible to measure with scientific precision. At any rate, the survey on popular feelings and moods today shows many credits on the ledger — often attributed to the personal appeal of President Kennedy.

Flags Still Flew

"An Egyptian," reports AP's Cairo correspondent George McArthur, "could feel safe in shouting 'Down with the United States' and following with 'Long live Kennedy'. Privately, Egyptians are friendly toward Americans, tourists are avidly courted, and an American passport assures you of favorable consideration."

The United States plainly benefited from the President's trips to France and Venezuela. "Three weeks after the Kennedy left," reports Caracas correspondent Richard Massock, "some of the U.S. flags displayed for the occasion still fluttered from lampposts. Not even the Communists bothered to tear them down."

The spirit of friendliness President and Mrs. Kennedy generated in France likewise has long outlasted their visit.

Left Little Bitterness

"The French public appears to like Kennedy's style," says correspondent Joseph E. Dynan, who has observed opinion trends in France since World War II. "The feeling is that America has a strong hand at the wheel." Even in India, New Delhi correspondent Henry Bradsher reports, "the stiff criticism by Adlai Stevenson in the U.N. Security Council of India's action in Goa has left little bitterness after Prime Minister Nehru went out of his way to praise America's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute."

Bradsher says Stevenson's speech did cause a "brief flurry of great hostility." The press denounced him "as a hypocrite for

having condemned the Goa ac-

tion." Elsewhere in Asia popular attitudes are on somewhat of a see-saw.

African Popularity Helped

For example, Pakistan's regard for the United States has increased because of military and economic aid and because of the cordial reception given in Washington last July to President Mohammad Ayub Khan.

In Afghanistan, on the other hand, esteem of the United States has declined because the Afghans are at odds with the Pakistanis and think the Americans should have pressured Pakistan into taking their side. The average Afghan, according to Bradsher, feels America doesn't care much about him.

Strong U.S. support of United Nations efforts to unify the Congo has helped American popularity in independent Africa, according to AP correspondent R. N. Lindsay at Lagos, Nigeria. "If President Kennedy came to Nigeria now he would get as cordial a welcome as he's had anywhere in the world," Lindsay said.

Still 'the Greatest'

The incident involving the widely publicized postcard by a Peace Corps girl who spoke of primitive conditions in Nigeria was quickly forgotten, Lindsay reports.

Not so easily forgotten, he notes, are accounts of discrimination against Negroes in America, especially when they involve an African diplomat. "Such episodes are splashed in the press and radio," the correspondent says, "and the public always reacts angrily."

In the Philippines, correspondent Henry Hartzenbusch reports America still is regarded as the world's greatest democracy "always ready to help out whenever the Philippines are in a jam."

Hartzenbusch says U. S. prestige reached its low point after the Cuban affair but "has risen since then, especially with Kennedy's stand on Berlin."

The bad effects of the Cuban disaster likewise have been counterbalanced in Latin America by subsequent events, especially the administration's Alliance for Progress program.

Gradually Climbing Back

In Mexico — where Castro trained his revolutionary army — there were a number of anti-American demonstrations following the Cuban invasion — in Morelia, Guadalajara and other places. Nothing of the sort has happened in months, and the last disturbance by university students ended with Castro being burned in effigy.

"America's popular prestige in Mexico," reports the AP's Jack Rutledge, "soared with the election of President Kennedy and is gradually climbing back to about what it was in early 1961."

Correspondents in Venezuela and Argentina also report an increase in public favor for the United States. Dr. Cesar Eduardo Vares, Argentine chairman of a private organization working toward a sort of Latin American common market — the Inter-American Institute for Economic Unity — says he believes this holds true for the hemisphere.

America 'Swerves' Sometimes

In Brazil, however, AP correspondent Tom Masterson notes Brazilians tend to blame America for their internal troubles — inflation, devaluation of currency, even a drop in world coffee prices.

But "if Brazilians were asked to choose between playing on the U.S. team or any other team," Masterson adds, "90 per cent would choose the United States."

What about Western Europe? London's Eddy Gilmore recalls that Bismarck once said, "The supreme fact of the 19th century was that Britain and the United States spoke the same language," to which Winston Churchill added, "Let us make sure that the supreme fact of the 20th century is that they tread the same path."

Some Britons, however feel that America sometimes swerves from the straight path in dealing with old friends.

In a letter to the Daily Telegraph recently, Brigadier J. O. Thurburn wrote that "America constantly confounds her allies, notably Britain and France at Suez, Belgium in the Congo, Portugal in Angola—"

'Immeasurably Improved'

Other Britons, says Gilmore, "are firmly convinced the United States is still suffering from a conviction that Britain is today a colonial power."

The British, as others, looked upon the Cuban invasion "as one of the worst American disasters for a long time. However," Gilmore reports, "they've forgotten it, or forgiven."

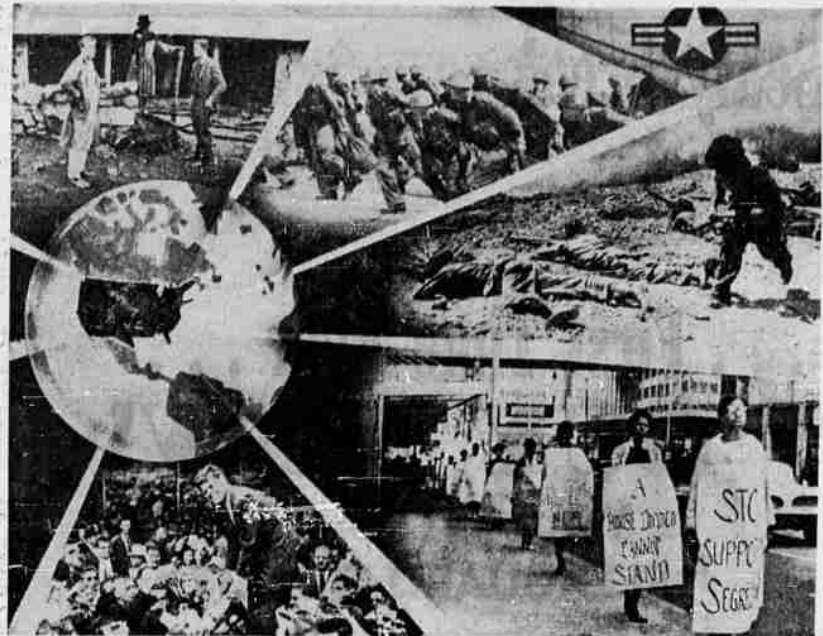
Also changing is the long-held British notion that every American is a millionaire. More and more middle and lower income Americans are visiting the country and "have immeasurably improved in their personal conduct."

Italy Favorably Impressed

In Rome, a source high in the Italian government commented "The Kennedy administration which started off like a rocket, seems to be orbiting erratically." Other Italians complain of what they call America's "political immaturity," and the Peace Corps is sometimes cited as an example. It has been the butt of scores of newspaper cartoons.

The same government official, however, said Italians were fa-

vorably impressed by America's defense of the United Nations, its policy toward underdeveloped countries and its general efforts for peace.



(AP Newsfeatures photo)

Causes of ups and downs of United States prestige around the world during the past year are suggested here: Clockwise, starting at upper left: The Peace Corps; United Nations forces in the Congo, with an American plane as a symbol of U. S. aid; the Cuban invasion; the Negro problem; President Kennedy receiving a friendly welcome. Reactions have included criticism, applause, and a mixture of both; for instance, criticism for the Cuban invasion, applause for personally popular President Kennedy. But the general feeling abroad is that United States prestige seems higher than it was a year ago.

Better Picture

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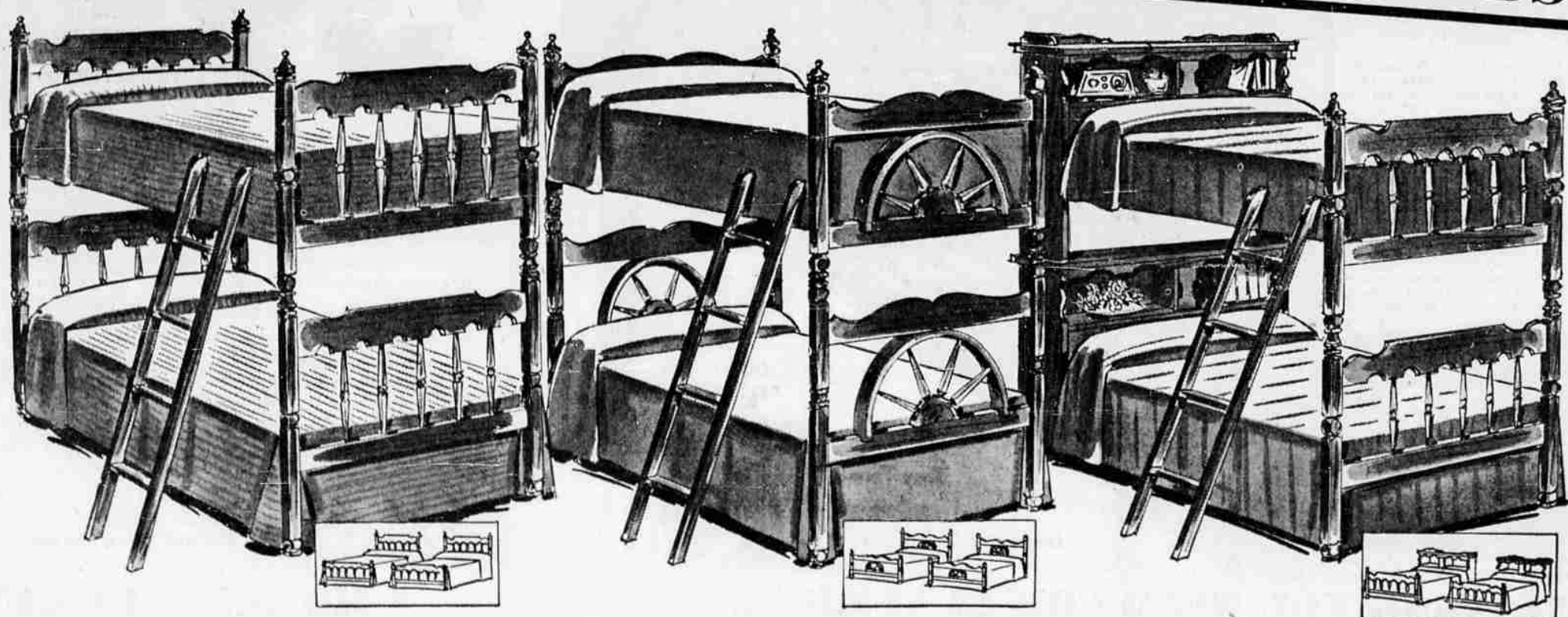
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