



Havana Parade Cuban rocket launchers pass in review on main avenue in Havana Wednesday during military parade marking the 4th anniversary of Fidel Castro's rise to power. Huge portrait of Castro waving rifle appears on side of building in background.

32 Siberian Peasants Seek Asylum in U. S. Embassy

MOSCOW (UPI)—A group of 32 peasant men, women and children who had traveled 2,000 miles from Siberia, pushed past Soviet guards into the U. S. Embassy Thursday seeking asylum from "religious persecution."

The embassy turned them over to Soviet officials who took the peasants away in a bus. Many of them were weeping and protesting that they would be shot for their religious beliefs.

Embassy policy in Moscow is to refuse refuge to Soviet citizens, presumably because of the political problems which would arise as well as the lack of facilities for housing them in the embassy building.

Although seeking refuge in

the embassy, the group did not ask for political asylum, an embassy spokesman said. Embassy officials explained to the peasants that they could not leave Russia without permission from Soviet authorities and that an embassy could not make such arrangements. This argument finally persuaded them to start boarding the bus.

Members of the group referred to themselves as "Evangelical Christians" who do not recognize any form of organized religion but merely are persons who claim equality among themselves and pray to God.

The peasants complained they had not been allowed to observe religious holidays and had been barred from contact with their

children in some instances. One man getting on the bus to leave the embassy compound told newsmen he had not seen his children for two years.

"This is not funny," he sighed. "This is tragic."

Russian-speaking Western correspondents heard some members of the group talking of a comrade who they claimed had been "rotting in prison" for two years.

"The same thing will happen to us," one of the group said.

Soviet Foreign Ministry officials also were heard assuring the members of the group that "nothing will happen to you."

But it did not appear that any formal guarantee had been given.

Embassy sources said the peasants had been given a meal of eggs, toast and coffee in the embassy lunchroom before they were taken away by Soviet authorities.

Some of the elderly men in the group wept. Others argued with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials who had been called to the compound.

One man told an embassy official: "We don't want to go anywhere. They will shoot us."

Another said in a loud voice to newsmen: "Those who believe in God and Christ help us. We ask it. We ask those who believe in God and Christ help us."

Soviet plainclothesmen threatened to confiscate the camera of any Western photographer who took a picture of the departing bus load of peasants.

A U. S. Embassy statement said the band was from the Siberian city of Chernogorsk.

Nikita May Attend East Berlin Parley

By REINHOLD ENSZ
Of the Associated Press

MOSCOW — Moscow's diplomatic colony is buzzing with rumors that Premier Khrushchev may soon make a significant trip to East Berlin.

The sixth congress of East Germany's Communist party opens there Jan. 15. Some diplomats feel the Soviet leader

might use the occasion to put new life into the Berlin problem and to boost the sagging prestige of East Germany's Communist leaders.

These diplomats wonder whether Khrushchev's latest pronouncements on Berlin—one to West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, the other to London's Daily Express—might have been advance notice of a new Berlin offensive.

Other diplomats feel that Khrushchev has no desire to stir up the smoldering Berlin coals and will send a deputy to the meeting.

The two most prominent Soviet leaders who have not attended a foreign congress recently are both first deputy premiers—Anastas I. Mikoyan and Alexei Kosygin.

Some Western observers doubt that Mikoyan would be sent, having just finished with the face-losing Cuban situation. If he did go, East German officials might get the idea they are being put in the same category with Fidel Castro.

Kosygin possibly is a likely choice since East Germany is having serious economic problems. His specialty is economic planning.

If Khrushchev does not go to East Berlin, East Germany's economic plight could be a major reason. Khrushchev does not like to be associated with second-rate situations. They undermine his prestige.

The last East German party congress was held in July 1958. Khrushchev attended it. Four months later, on Nov. 27, he demanded that Allied troops clear out of West Berlin in six months and that West Berlin be converted into a demilitarized free city.

French Plan To Continue Nuclear Effort

PARIS (UPI)—France disclosed Thursday that it is determined to push ahead with development of its own independent nuclear force despite President Kennedy's offer of American-made Polaris missiles.

President Charles de Gaulle made this clear to Kennedy in a Wednesday, although information Minister Alain Peyrefitte said there is no question of rejecting the Polaris offer.

Asked whether the reply rejected the offer of Polaris missiles, Peyrefitte said, "There is no question of closing the door to anything."

But, he added, "France is engaged on her own nuclear effort and she is not prepared to abandon it."

Peyrefitte made the announcement after a three-hour cabinet meeting at Elysee Palace presided over by De Gaulle.

Peyrefitte said Defense Minister Pierre Messmer told the cabinet that ten days ago French technicians carried out a "completely successful" test at Colomb Bechar in the Sahara Desert of a propulsion and guidance system for a nuclear missile.

France currently is working on a Polaris-type missile of its own as part of an independent nuclear striking force program.

UO Dean Contributes Chapter to Book

Robert D. Clark, dean of faculties at the University of Oregon, is a contributor to a newly published book entitled "Antislavery and Disunion, 1853-1861."

In the chapter, "Methodist Debates and Union Sentiment on the Border, 1860-1861," Dean Clark examines the speech-making occasions and its effect on American history.

Edited by J. Jeffery Auer and published by Harper & Row, the book presents studies of public address on the issues of antislavery and disunion, and into the conditions which led to the disruption of public discussion and armed conflict.

Britain Slashes Lending Rate

LONDON (AP)—Britain Thursday slashed its official bank lending rate by half a point, from 4½ to 4 per cent.

It was the sixth successive cut since the summer of 1961 when the bank rate was at a postwar high of 7 per cent.

The reduction in the Bank of England rate had been widely expected following recent moves by Chancellor of the Exchequer Reginald Maudling to pump more money into the economy.

The Bank of England lending rate sets the pattern for the rates charged by other banks in Britain and the sterling bloc.

Visit to India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Greece's King Paul and Queen Frederika will pay a state visit to India beginning Feb. 2, the Nehru government announced.

Leadership Class To Hear UO Man

Lt. Col. John W. Kocher, University of Oregon professor of air science, will speak on Tuesday to a leadership class at the Navy and Marine Corps Training Center, 1520 W. 13th Ave., Eugene.

Kocher will speak at 8:30 p.m. He will discuss the present ROTC program on the Oregon campus. The class is comprised of members of the Eugene extension of the Naval Reserve Officer School with headquarters in Portland.

Lt. Cdr. L. E. Zook, in charge of the training center, announced in connection with Kocher's talk that registration is now open for a new five-month course on organization for national security. The course will begin in February. Naval, Coast Guard, Marine and Army reserve officers may enroll and earn promotion and retirement credits.

145,000 Marines Alerted If Needed for Cuban Action

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some 45,000 Marines stood ready to invade Cuba—"awaiting their government's decision"—during the October crisis, Gen. David M. Shoup said Thursday.

And 100,000 more leathernecks were "ready to back them up," the Marine commandant added in remarks prepared for his annual speech to the headquarters staff.

Shoup's reference to the force was the first disclosure of how many Marines were poised aboard ships of the fleet and on shore bases before the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its missiles and bombers from the island.

The Pentagon disclosed previously that more than 100,000 infantry, paratroops and other forces were ready for possible action in Cuba.

Red Chinese, Soviets Laud Fidel Castro

Support Pledged To Cuban Regime

United Press International

Russia and Red China tried Thursday to outdo each other in proclaiming support for Fidel Castro's revolutionary regime in Cuba which is celebrating its fourth anniversary in power this week.

Mikhail Suslov of the Soviet Presidium (politburo) told a Moscow meeting that the Communist world must "watch vigilantly" to see that the U.S. pledge not to attack Cuba is "strictly adhered to."

Suslov said Russia would act to counter any "provocation around Cuba. He said the Kremlin "will never leave revolutionary Cuba alone in distress."

Terms Not Fulfilled

The U.S. pledge against invasion of Cuba was conditioned on several requirements which have not been fulfilled, notably Castro's refusal to allow international inspectors to confirm that Soviet missiles have been removed from Cuban soil.

Red China and its North Korean and Albanian supporters used praise for Cuba as an oblique means of denouncing Russia for backing down before the United States in the Cuba crisis.

Chen Yi, foreign minister of the Peking regime, declared at a banquet that the Reds "resolutely support the just struggle of the (Castroite) Cuban people and will stand by them."

"We wish to congratulate you particularly on your great victory scored in the latest struggle against the military provocations of U.S. imperialism," Chen told Castroite Ambassador Oscar Pino Santos.

'Heroic' Attitude

"In this struggle... you have preserved your sovereignty, defended the revolution and maintained the dignity of a socialist (Communist) state, thus inspiring the people of the world in their revolutionary struggles."

Peking Radio broadcast an Albanian editorial saying that it was "the heroic and staunch attitude of the Cuban people" that sustained the Castro regime against "the political compromise of surrender."

Official organs in Communist North Korea parroted the Chinese line that Castro's firm stand in the Cuban crisis was a "great victory."

Castro, who has both Russians and Reds from China on his country's soil, urged the Communist giants in an anniversary speech to stand together against "imperialism."

NATO Chief Steps Down

PARIS (UPI)—Gen. Lauris Norstad ended six crisis-filled years as supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe Wednesday, saying that Western strength provides "confidence and hope" for the future.

Norstad, 55, handed over his command to Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, 63, in a brief ceremony at Allied headquarters near Paris.

Lemnitzer, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, promptly pledged to carry on the efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization "for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security."

Norstad is retiring not only from his NATO job but also from the U.S. Air Force, ending a 36-year career in the American armed forces. He is expected to take a top executive position in American industry or education.

Wage Freeze Policy

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The executive of Israel's General Trades Union Organization, Histadrut, has adopted a wage-freeze policy for all of 1963 in support of a government effort to prevent inflation and improve Israel's competitive position in world markets.

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