

U.S. Officials Ponder Steps Against Castro

By LEWIS GULICK
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States sought Tuesday to rally stronger pressures against Cuba — still the base for an estimated 16,000 to 17,000 Soviet soldiers — as the next step in an effort to end the Communist threat in the hemisphere.

U.S. officials believe the campaign may be long and difficult. The United States and the Soviet Union put a formal and diplomatic end to the Cuban crisis Monday with a letter announcing the conclusion of their talks. The letter, from U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov to U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant, acknowledged they had not been able to "resolve all the problems that have arisen in connection" with the crisis.

But they said they hoped that the "actions taken to avert the threat of war" will lead "toward the adjustment of other differences" between the two countries.

One issue still remaining is that of Cuba itself. The U.S. government, Washington officials stated, stands firmly committed to President Kennedy's promise to try to halt Cuban subversion and to his proposition that "the Cuban people shall some day be truly free."

Since the avowed U.S. intent is not to accomplish this by military invasion, and proposed measures are more psychological and economic than forceful, an indefinite period of contest lay ahead.

Informants said the estimate of 16,000 to 17,000 Soviet military personnel still in Cuba — substantially above some previous estimates — stemmed from a re-evaluation of intelligence data rather than any new influx of Soviet troops.

The higher count was also said to have grown from information indicating Soviet soldiers are more widely engaged in the Cuban military system than previously thought.

The current U.S. assessment sums up this way:

- About two-thirds of the approximately 17,000 Soviet military in Cuba are advisers and technicians. About one-third are combat soldiers in four heavily armed battalions. About 4,000 troops — those associated with the withdrawn missiles and bombers — have left.
- The expectation here is that the number of trainers and technicians will dwindle as their tasks are completed in future months. There is no sign of departure of the combat battalions.
- The U.S. government has made plain it intends to continue its aerial surveillance over Cuba.
- Limits on the effectiveness of a general hemispheric restriction on trade with Cuba are recognized here. It was pointed out that the \$53 million in U.S. food-drugs ransom for the Cuban invasion prisoners amounted to about five years' worth of Latin American trade with Cuba, now running about \$10 million annually.
- Cuba now is plagued by economic troubles. The U.S. foreign agriculture service said Tuesday that four years of Castro administration has just about wrecked the island's agriculture.

Big Powers Close U.N. Role in Cuba

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — The United States and the Soviet Union have closed the U.N. book on the Cuban crisis that two months ago raised the prospect of nuclear war.

The big powers, in a joint letter Monday night to U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant, conceded that they have not been able to resolve all problems in connection with the crisis. But they said in view of understandings they have reached, it is not necessary for the matter "to occupy further the attention of the Security Council at this time."

The chief remaining deadlock was Cuba's refusal to admit the foreign inspectors demanded by the United States to verify the removal of Soviet offensive missiles and jet bombers.

Dock Strike Negotiators Holding Talks

NEW YORK — Separate meetings of negotiators for both sides in the Atlantic and Gulf coasts dock strike resumed Tuesday following an expression of disappointment by a federal mediator.

James J. Reynolds, assistant secretary of labor, told newsmen that Monday's separate meetings "were disappointing in that they did not show the slightest progress."

Losses were reported to have passed the \$320-million mark as the strike that has crippled shipping in ports from Maine to Texas went into its 17th day.

More than 100 ships have been idled here by the strike of 80,000 members of the AFL-CIO International Longshoremen's Assn. in a contract dispute. Dozens of ships are marooned in other ports.

Reynolds told newsmen that the strike is affecting the nation's foreign policy. He said more than a million tons of food aid to Pakistan, Algeria, Brazil and other countries is tied up.

The contract deadlock is between the union and the New York Shipping Assn., which represents 145 shipping and stevedoring companies. Contract terms reached between the two groups here traditionally set a pattern for other ports.

The union is seeking a package of 50 cents an hour, including 26 cents in wages, over a two-year period. The industry has offered a wage increase of 22 cents an hour over two years. Pre-strike basic wages averaged \$3.02 an hour. Several issues in addition to wages are in dispute.

Admiral Leaves On Two-Week Tour

HONOLULU — Adm. Harry D. Felt, U.S. military commander in the Pacific, left Honolulu Monday for a two-week tour of Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea, accompanied by Edward Martin, State Department adviser to the Pacific Command.

A Pacific headquarters spokesman declined to say what countries in Southeast Asia are on the admiral's itinerary, but it is assumed he will visit Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines.



Leave Africa

Rutha Tshombe, right, wife of President Moïse Tshombe of Katanga Province, sits in car with Mrs. Yav Osimba, wife of the Katanga defense minister, and their children upon arriving at Rome airport Monday to board plane for Brussels, Belgium. They were en route from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

U.S. Farm Experts

Freeman Cautions Against Barriers

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman cautioned the European Common Market Tuesday that barriers against U.S. farm exports would force a cut in American foreign aid and spread the "contagious virus" of protectionism.

He said a sizable reduction in America's Western Europe farm markets would increase U.S. deficits abroad at a time when the nation might be unable to carry them. The alternative might be, he said, a reduction in foreign economic and security aid.

Freeman, in a speech prepared for a convention of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said the United States is making the strongest possible representation against European Common Market policies which would encourage higher-cost domestic production of farm products and close the door to U.S. products.

"The vital nature of our export trade in farm products causes us to be deeply concerned that protectionist tendencies are appearing today in the common agricultural policy of the European Common Market," Freeman said.

"We have emphasized that protectionism is like a contagious virus that can spread from one body to another, since neither we nor other nations can follow liberal trade rules if protectionism is the new order of the day among trading partners," he said.

Freeman said the Council of Ministers of the Common Market countries will meet in Brussels Jan. 14 to pass judgment on this country's petition that they lower recently increased import duties on poultry.

"I assure you that everything possible will be done at the negotiating table this year and next to keep a valuable market open to the efficient American poultry industry," Freeman said. Other products likely to be affected adversely, he said, include wheat, feed grains, and rice.

Guerrilla War In New Phase

SAIGON, South Viet Nam — A rising tide of South Vietnamese casualties indicates that the long guerrilla war has entered a new phase of large-scale engagements. The fighting is fiercer than at any time since the Indochina war ended in 1954.

In five days, South Vietnam government forces have suffered 122 killed in three battles. Viet Cong casualties are believed heavy.

In the latest battle, the Viet Cong stormed into a defended hamlet near the seacoast 240 miles northeast of Saigon Sunday. They killed 24, wounded 10 and captured 27 South Vietnamese and a sizable stock of arms.

The government claimed 60 enemy killed or wounded. Analysts of Viet Cong tactics feel the Communists may be trying to rack up a good score of successes to offset low morale that has been reported recently.

Technicians Probe Minuteman Failure

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Technicians are seeking the cause of the failure of the first missile fired in 1963 from this test center, a Minuteman which fell short of its planned 5,000-mile range.

The flight Monday was the second for the more powerful Wing 2 model of the Minuteman. The first was successful. The earlier Wing 1 missile was declared operational last month.

Woman Fined \$50 On Larceny Charge

A 55-year-old Lowell woman was fined \$50 in Springfield Justice Court last week after pleading guilty to a charge of petty larceny.

The woman, Helen F. Hurford, admitted taking six yards of print cloth from Alexander's Dept. Store. The value of the cloth was 33-cents a yard, Springfield police said.

Pathet Lao To Continue Plane Attacks

VIENTIANE, Laos — American planes distributing relief supplies to Laotian mountain tribesmen will continue to risk destruction if they fly over territory held by the Pathet Lao, Information Minister Phoumi Vongvichit said Tuesday. Two planes have been shot down and two Americans killed in the past six weeks.

Vongvichit is a leading member of the Pathet Lao, the pro-Communist faction within the government headed by neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma.

The information minister told newsmen the hazard to U.S. relief planes will apply until there is a coalition agreement on distribution of the supplies. He reminded that Souvanna himself authorized the American operations, Vongvichit snapped that. "Before signing, Souvanna must have an accord of the three factions."

He suggested the United States should follow the example of the Soviet Union, which backed the Pathet Lao in the Laotian civil war and gave Laos several transport planes.

American officials feel a moral obligation to continue relief flights to the Meos tribesmen, who fought the Pathet Lao. They believe that if these flights were abruptly discontinued the refugees would either starve or be left at the mercy of the Red guerrillas.

Souvanna said he is sorry the planes are being shot at and that a meeting of factional leaders will be called to discuss this question.

Bad Case Of 'Pay Fever'

HONOLULU — A bank employee in Honolulu has lost his job as a teller because he's allergic to money.

Clifford Fujiwara, 21, began sneezing uncontrollably after promotion to his teller's job in Honolulu's American Security Bank. His doctor diagnosed that Fujiwara probably is the only banker in the world who can't stand to be around the green stuff.

This week Fujiwara is working in the bank's commercial department where money is listed in ledgers. He doesn't sneeze at that.

Paper Insists RAF 'Raid' Successful

Official Denials Brushed Aside

LONDON (UPI) — The Daily Express Tuesday brushed aside official denials and insisted Royal Air Force jet bombers recently had slipped past U.S. defenses in a surprise mock attack on American cities.

The newspaper said it first published the story Monday only after receiving "firm confirmation" from the British Air Ministry.

Express Air reporter Keith Thompson rejected denials of the report by the British Air Ministry in London and the Pentagon in Washington.

"The fact is that the V bombers have penetrated U.S. defenses, and recently," Thompson insisted.

Contradicts Pentagon

This contradicted a statement by a Pentagon spokesman who said no British bombers had participated in U.S. defense exercises since 1961. He said the Express report and similar reports in other British newspapers were without foundation.

In Topsham, Maine, officials of Air Force radar warning station backed the Pentagon Tuesday. A spokesman said the latest British Vulcan bomber "visit" to the United States was a landing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., by planes on a round-the-world flight with regular flight plans in December, 1962.

Several other British morning newspapers — including the Times, the Mirror and the Mail — published factual accounts of the reports and the denials Tuesday.

Thompson said officials in London and Washington spent all day Monday consulting about his story.

'Lines Crossed'

"What started as a firm confirmation from the Air Ministry ended up as flat denials on both sides of the Atlantic, with the Air Ministry telling me 'the lines got crossed,'" Thompson said.

Chapman Pincher, defense expert for the Express, said in a commentary the denials followed "the standard pattern of U.S. pressure being applied to save face in Washington and faces in Whitehall."

"The Whitehall departments almost always conform because of near pathological fear of offending Washington and a compulsive desire to give into the hidden persuaders in the Pentagon," Pincher said.

In an editorial, the Express said its story had raised fundamental issues on the power and effectiveness of Britain's nuclear force and "the vulnerability of her greatest ally."



(AP Wirephoto)
WANTS JOB—Robert S. Kerr Jr., 36, says he will seek election in 1964 to the U.S. Senate seat of his father who died Jan. 1. Howard Edmondson resigned as Oklahoma governor to fill the Senate vacancy until the next general election.

Chinese Say India Wants Border Fight

TOKYO (UPI) — Communist China Tuesday announced a "positive response" to neutralist proposals for mediating the Sino-Indian border dispute, but accused India of wanting to fight.

The official New China News Agency broadcast communicates which the Peking regime signed Monday with Indonesia and Ceylon as representatives of the Colombo Conference of Afro-Asian Nations.

"The Chinese government gave a positive response to the proposals of the Colombo Conference," the communiques said.

The statement added that it was "agreed that in the interests of Afro-Asian solidarity it was imperative that a solution to the Sino-Indian boundary question be found without delay in keeping with the spirit of the ten principles of the Bandung Conference."

The Bandung Conference in 1955 called for policies of non-aggression and non-intervention in affairs of other states.

Tuesday's Red Chinese newspapers said India has failed to demonstrate sincerity for peaceful negotiations on the border dispute. Editorials from the papers were quoted by the news agency.

The Peking People's Daily, the Communist party newspaper, said India was only "blustering incessantly" about settling the dispute. It said India was permitting "imperialism" to promote plans to make "Asians fight Asians."



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