

Highly Informed Correspondents Review Tense East-West Situation

Editor's note: Speculation about United States-Soviet relations and the direction in which they are heading has increased sharply since the Cuban crisis. Four highly informed correspondents who have followed closely the diplomatic maneuvers in the world capitals, assess the situation in the following special report.

By United Press International
Is the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States about to enter an entirely new climate?

Has there been a turning point in the long struggle between the Communist and free world, an ebbing of the tide that has seen Marxism engulf vast portions of our globe?

Up until the Cuban crisis, those questions would not have been asked. Since then, there have been straws in the wind to indicate that we may be passing through one of those periods which historians will come to record as a decisive time, a time when the course of events moved into a new channel.

One of those straws came on the night of Nov. 20 at President Kennedy's press conference.

After breaking the momentous news that Nikita Khrushchev had backed down on the IL28 bombers and that the United States was lifting its quarantine of Cuba, Kennedy said in answer to a question: "This is a rather climactic period and I think that we can perhaps tell in the next six months what is going on in the world beyond this hemisphere with more precision."

"If five years ago we had looked at the world, I don't think we would have made a judgment that it would have moved quite the way it has moved, that China and India would be involved in a very serious struggle which may lead to full scale war... and that relations in many parts of the world would be changing as they are. I think this is a very climactic period."

That same day, speaking in New York, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said:

"I suspect we are on the front edge of significant and perhaps unpredictable events."

Three days later Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs Harlan Cleveland put a damper on too optimistic speculation. He said any assumption that the Cu-

ban backdown presages a general Russian retreat was "bottled-in-bond mythology."

But Cleveland, too, said there might now be a "turning point"—that the Communist world might undergo "an evolutionary mutation—changing subtly and with massive deliberation."

If such a change is at hand, how will it manifest itself? Will it affect the Berlin stalemate? Is an open break between Red China and Russia a likelihood? What about disarmament?

United Press International asked four of its most widely informed correspondents what they thought of the "turning point" idea. They are: Merriam Smith, White House correspondent since the Roosevelt days; Henry Shapiro, Moscow bureau chief more than 25 years; Stewart Hensley, chief correspondent at the State Department; and Karol Thaler, veteran of a decade of European diplomatic reporting.

Shapiro Optimistic

It was interesting that the two Washington correspondents took a relatively dim view of any grand new era of East-West cooperation, that Thaler was somewhere in between and Shapiro slightly more optimistic.

Here are their comments on these questions:

Is this a turning point?

Shapiro: Cuba has shown how much pride Khrushchev is willing to swallow to avoid nuclear war. President Kennedy, with his desiveness in the Cuban crisis, with his readiness to act without time delaying consultation with America's allies, must have gained him new stature in Khrushchev's eyes. The Soviet premier has always maintained that if he could only achieve agreement with the United States in the interests of world peace, no other nation could possibly object.

In the present circumstances, it is reasonable to expect a reactivation of Soviet foreign policy looking towards a normalization of East-West relations and eventual relaxation of world tensions which would enable Khrushchev to devote all his resources and energies to domestic problems and cause a solution of the Sino-Soviet conflict.

Smith: No, I don't really agree that things generally between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. might be getting better. At least, we have no solid evidence to this effect.

Russia's pattern over a great many years has been to turn crisis off and on as she probes expansion possibilities around the world.

John Foster Dulles, before and after the Geneva 1955 summit meeting, warned Americans not to expect much. The Eisenhower administration had the same warnings before and after the roseate 1959 Khrushchev visit and the so called "spirit of Camp David." We've been through these happy hours be-



VIEW ON RELATIONS — United Press International has asked four of its most widely informed correspondents what they think of the theory that there might now be a turning point for the better in U.S. - Soviet relations. They are Merriam Smith, upper left, who takes a relatively dim view of the prospect; Henry Shapiro, upper right, who is slightly more optimistic; Karol Thaler, lower left, who takes a view somewhat in the middle; and Stewart Hensley, lower right, who shares Smith's opinion. (UPI)

fore and each time the result has always been that the Russians had a method in their pleasantries.

Yet, Western statesmen cannot afford to be completely cynical about each thaw in the cold war. Each positive development, no matter how transitory, carries the hope of some residual good...

Thaler:

The signs as seen from here (Europe) are that in months to come Khrushchev is likely to embark on a new major peace offensive, and a new diplomatic offensive to supplement it. He is expected to appear more amenable and offer pledges for cold war settlements. But he is not held likely to give anything away or even to offer easy solutions.

One must bear in mind that Moscow's and, for that matter, Khrushchev's own long-term policy aims have not changed, despite Cuba. The long-term aim of the Kremlin is and remains to change setbacks, has if anything, strengthened Russia's determination to achieve this. With this goes aim to spread communism world-wide.

Hensley:

Turning points are usually not identifiable except by historic hindsight. If I had to

Guinea and obviously decided the Soviet bloc economic base was in no condition to sustain major continental offensives of this nature.

The Soviet retreat in Cuba undoubtedly has increased the doubts of many of the world's hungry and ragged—as well as those who are simply opportunistic fence sitters—as to whether communism is indeed "the wave of the future."

My assumption is that we can anticipate a period of superficial relaxation of East-West tensions due to the enforced necessity for Khrushchev to review his strategy after the failure of his gamble to convert Cuba into a strategic nuclear base. Basically, however, I would assume that Soviet-American relations in the fundamental sense are as bad as ever, possibly worse.

What can we expect in the near future in Soviet-American relationships?

Hensley: Most top officials in Washington appear to expect a new Soviet "peace offensive" as the next phase, with Khrushchev posing as the "apostle of peace" who magnanimously pulled his weapons out of Cuba in the interest of world peace instead of because he had to.

Such an offensive undoubtedly would be designed to lull the West into complacency.

Most officials believe there may be some possibility of agreement on a nuclear test ban since this is the issue on which the two sides seem closest at this point. It depends on two factors: 1-How much progress made in its last test series; 2-How compelling is Russia's need to lessen the strain of the nuclear program on its economy in order to put more dynamism into its international economic offensive which, except for Cuba, is at a virtual standstill.

Thaler: The next few months may see the Russians more amon-

able in negotiations with the West, but experts here doubt whether Moscow will make any major concessions on really essential issues. They may agree to a nuclear test ban, although they are not expected really to allow Americans or Britons to inspect Soviet territory proper.

They will almost certainly seek some accord on preventing nuclear weapons from get-

ting in the hands of other nations. They are desperately anxious to keep Western nuclear weapons away from the Germans and in turn have no intention to give the atom bomb to Red China.

Optimists believe there may even be some form of settlement on Berlin, at least a temporary one.

Shapiro:

Four areas in which new moods may manifest them-

selves shortly from the Kremlin are:

- 1-Postponement of the oft-threatened showdown on Berlin.
- 2-Progress for an agreement banning nuclear tests.
- 3-General disarmament.
- 4-Developments on the Sino-Indian border clash.

Smith:

Berlin continues to be the real flashpoint between East and West and this will continue to be the case until the Russians make a rather solid public commitment to continuation of at least the status quo. The Kennedy-Macmillan meeting set for mid-December is no bland, routine checkup. Kennedy and Macmillan have something, or many things, they want to discuss.

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Servicemen

ENLISTED
Several Jackson county men have enlisted or reenlisted in the U. S. Navy's branch station, Medford, during November.

They include: Clifton R. Massey Jr., son of Mrs. Nelda Roberts, 111 Chestnut st.; James M. Williams, son of Francis E. McCaleb, route 2, box 669½, Central Point; Jerry A. and Joe A. Gamble, sons of Mrs. Harriet J. Lomax, 620 Ray lane, Ashland; Franklin R. Marshall, son of Mrs. Margaret R. Marshall, 135 North Front st., Talent; Richard W. Walker, son of Willie T. Walker, box 277, Prospect; and Barton L. Cowan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cowan, 325 North Oakdale ave., Medford.

STATIONED

Irwen M. Stockford, engineering aid third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl I. Stockford, 602 North River side ave., is stationed at the Naval Construction Battalion center, Port Hueneme, Calif.

SERVING ABOARD

Larry G. Smith, radioman third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lennis E. Smith, route 1, Eagle Point, is serving aboard the tank landing ship, USS Henry County, which returned to the United States recently from deployment overseas.

Serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, currently on a goodwill tour abroad, are John R. Hart, chief machinist's mate, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Huffman, 363½ Charlotte Anne rd., and Jackie R. Young, aviation ordnanceman third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer B. Young, 371 O'Gara st.

RETURNS TO U.S.

Technical Sgt. Robert McCarty Jr., husband of the former Phyllis I. Hollingsworth, Ashland, has arrived at Williams Air Force base, Ariz., for duty with a unit of the U. S. Air Forces in Europe.

Sergeant McCarty, an aircraft accessory systems technician, was previously assigned in Saudi Arabia.

LOTS OF LUMBER

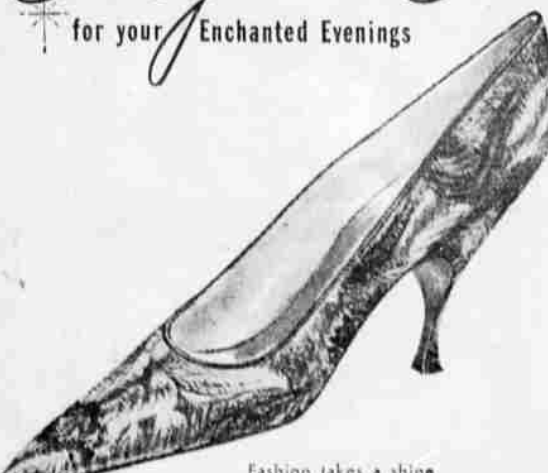
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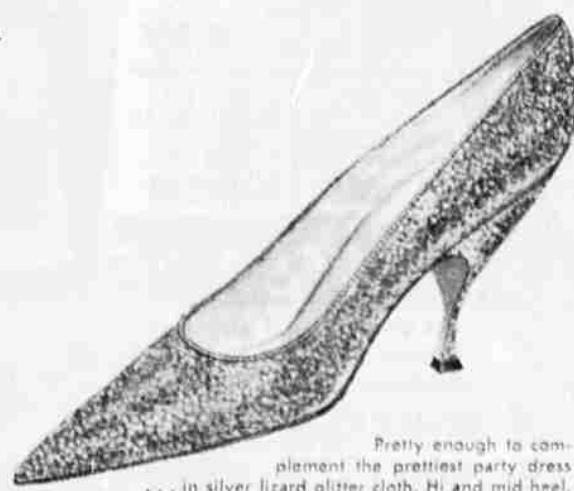
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