Ex-Cuba Resident Says Missile Removal Not Enough To Curtail Communist Tide

By MALCOLM TODD

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The Administration has received a sharp stare of alarm from the Latin American nations; and for good reasons. Dean Rusk recently had to outdo himself to calm several ambassadors from the nations of the Organization of American States. On Oct. 27, Mr. Kennedy replied to an unpublicized note from Khrushchev regarding Cuba.

He stated that if the missiles were removed, the United States would be prepared to end the blockade, and, that it would guarantee to take no invasion action against Cuba.

MR. KENNEDY added, "I am confident that the other nations of the Western Hemisphere will be disposed to proceed in the same manner." Just exactly what, the Latin American gentlemen were asking themselves, does this mean?

Ever since the San Jose Conference of the OAS in 1960, the U.S. had been vainly trying to line up solid Latin American support for collective action against the Cuban Communist regime. This country had tried by every means, from the succulent promises of the Alliance for Progress to diplomatic pressures. This country had gotten nowhere; and suddenly it received decisive support.

ON OCTOBER 23, after a short and urgent session, the OAS voted unanimously to do what the U.S. had long been after: to use collective action, including the use of armed force, to eradicate the threat to the peace and security of the hemisphere that the arrogant intrusion of Soviet imperialism had posed.

And now, with the situation in hand, President Kennedy assured Khrushchev that, once the missiles were out, no move would be made against Cuba; and hoped that the nations of the OAS would "be disposed to proceed in the same manner."

WHAT HAPPENED before the Bay of Pigs invasion has taken place again; when the Red government in Cuba has been in grave danger of being crushed, powerful forces have mobilized themselves in order to make it hold.

For a brief moment, the United States had assumed the leadership of the hemisphere, and all the Latin nations hurried under its newly opened protective umbrella. Then suddenly, somehow, that protective umbrella snapped shut. The fact is, that although the immediate military threat may have been eradicated, the political menace of the Caribbean satellite remains as it was before, a status quo now ensured by the U.S., to its own detriment, by its promise to leave Cuba alone.

Why has this happened? The blockade is not nearly enough. It is a foregone conclusion that the Red flag will sprout from every nation on Latin soil, unless the U.S. does something to stop it. The Communists cannot be stopped by protests and anguished State Department white papers saying that Castro betrayed the revolution. They cannot be stopped by an isolated action like the blockade.

WE MIGHT THINK that Kennedy's great leap forward has put the initiative with the U.S. It might have, but it has not. It has ended in a shabby deal. We have taken another sleeping pill. But let us not fool ourselves.

What have these missiles to do with whether Brazil goes Red? You might hear someone say that the Castro image will lose some of its luster, for the masses of South America. Well, maybe so, and maybe not. No one has proved that it holds much luster now anyway, but this is beside the point. Communist revolutions have never been great mass upheavals. During the first, in Russia, as during the latest, in Cuba, a small, tightly organized group has succeeded in gaining power by means of cunning timing and audacity. It was after gaining power that they used their marvelous talents for propaganda to unite the population behind them, until they could spring shut their steel trap.

WE MIGHT AS well realize that if you are a Communist in the U.S., you are declaring yourself to be at the service of your country's mortal enemy. Americans do not ignore their tradition of shunning totalitarian government; and they are not wholly ignorant of Communism's bestial nature.

Yet, in other countries, this is not necessarily the case. If, for instance, you are a Communist in Bolivia, you are simply a Communist. Not a traitor, nor a heretic, nor an advocate of tyranny.

BEYOND THIS, there are the stark realities of power politics. It may not be apparent to many of us living in the ideological swaddles of the New Frontier, but the U.S. has really done little in this past crisis, in view of the anticlimax.

The Latin Americans will be very clear on this. They are small (Continued on Page 8)
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It is sadly true, that if this country is to remain the one white hope of humanity, if it is to preserve its freedom, it will have to act. There are no ifs or buts; we must act, and the sooner the better.

The time is past when we can sit silently by and wring our hands and issue white papers, as the State Department did, and say things like “Castro betrayed the revolution.”

**NONSENSE.** How can we say that a Communist betrayed a successful Communist revolution? Cuba is a Communist country. Castro led a successful Communist revolution in Cuba. Yet, that is what the State Department said in its white paper—Castro betrayed the revolution. Do these gentlemen of the State Department not understand what Communism is all about? Do they not understand the dialectics and semantics and the upside-down language — war is peace, black is white, negotiations meaning an extension or an instrument of war?

I do not know why we insist that this situation does not require measures of the utmost rigor; I merely note that we do. We had better remember the classic definition of Communism, given by a Latin diplomat: “Communism is the product of the apathy of the many, and the audacity of the few.”

**IN THE PAST,** this country never wavered, never hesitated, never counted the risks, never considered the odds—and it won. Now, it cannot allow its precious heritage of freedom to be destroyed.

The fate of the entire world is at stake. America holds too much of the future of mankind to allow it to slip so heart-rendingly from its hands.