

Communication

(A Hornet's Nest)

When a gardener is attacked by a swarm of hornets, if he is wise, he doesn't swat them individually, but seeks out their nest and destroys it.

For decades, Castro's Cuba has been America's hornet's nest. When Castro came to power in Cuba in 1959, Americans living in Cuba and those well acquainted with him and his policies, knew Castro, was at heart a communist. But it was several years after 1959 before our government recognized this and took steps to cut off our former close ties to Cuba. We severed diplomatic relations and stopped buying Cuba's sugar, its chief crop and the country's life blood. This threw Cuba into Russia's arms. Russia bought Cuba's sugar and armed her with modern weapons.

Eisenhower and his Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, recognized the danger of having a Russian satellite on our door step and took steps to eliminate it. But this didn't stop hundreds of upper class Cubans being driven into exile by Castro. Allan Dulles, Chief of American Intelligence, was authorized to organize Cuban expatriates in Yucatan and Central America for an invasion of Cuba to oust Castro. Allan Dulles even found ships for them and promised that an American air force would cover the landing and fly over Havana to prevent Castro from interfering.

Unfortunately, Eisenhower's term as President expired and John Kennedy succeeded him before the coup could be pulled off. President Kennedy had been apprised of the plan and agreed to back it. It was scheduled for April 17, 1961. The day before the invasion was to take place, Kennedy was dissuaded from furnishing the air cover lest it mar the United States image with the United Nations. But this word didn't reach the invaders, so the invasion took place without our air cover and resulted in the infamous slaughter of thousands of Cubans at the Bay of Pigs on Cuba's southern coast.

This Castro 'victory' boosted his ego and he proceeded to convert Cuba into a Russian military base equipped with missile and missile sites. A confrontation between Kennedy and Krushchev that came close to a war with Russia, and Russia was forced to withdraw its missiles. This was played up in

our press as a victory for Kennedy, but in fact it was a Krushchev victory since he extracted a promise from Kennedy that the United States in the future wouldn't invade Cuba!

Thereafter, under the protection of Russia, Castro acted as a 'major power' himself, intervening in Latin-American countries and sending hundreds of thousands of Cuba soldiers to Africa as Russian stooges to set up Marxist regimes.

President Carter has just lately discovered that the Russians had an armed brigade of their own soldiers in Cuba and was told that this wasn't 'acceptable' to the United States. But Russia ignored this and Carter let it pass.

Now that Russia has overrun Afghanistan and is poised for an invasion of Iran and a move down to the Persian gulf, it has prompted an announcement from Carter that the Middle East oil fields and the Persian Gulf are of vital interest to the United States and would be defended by military action if necessary. This has met with general American approval though there are doubts whether the United States is strong enough vis-a-vis Russia to make good on such warnings.

Meanwhile, to everyone's surprise, President Carter has told a visiting group of editors to the White House lately that the Caribbean area is not vital to the United States and would not call for military action to defend it!

We are willing to go half way around the world to fight for the Persian Gulf and the adjacent oil fields, but not to counter Castro or Russian moves next door to us!

I am sure that many Americans feel, if there is to be a confrontation with Russia, we would prefer to have the battle ground on our side of the Atlantic where we have a chance to win because the logistics are in our favor, rather than engaging in another Vietnam War on the other side of the world. If this results in our losing the oil fields to Russia, we are at Russia's mercy, are we not?

If the war is fought in our hemisphere and Castro is ousted, it would be a body blow to Russia, who are spending currently, it is said, between six and eight million dollars a day to support Castro. Ousting Castro should be more effective than a boycott of the Russian Olympic Games. Moreover, it would be a revival of

the Monroe Doctrine, which stated that the United States will not tolerate European conquests on this side of the Atlantic.

Let's squelch Communism on our very door step, which threatens America's vital security.

J. C. Luitweiler
Tryon, N. C.
February 12, 1980

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