

Soviet troops in Cuba mocking U.S.

According to a recent Gazette Telegraph, a brigade of the Soviet army, estimated at about 2,700 men, is more or less regularly stationed in Cuba; and about 1,700 more may have been added recently, thus bringing the total of such Red Army troops to approximately 4,400.

This raises some interesting questions:

1. What would the U.S.S.R. do if 4,400 U.S. soldiers were on maneuvers in some country adjacent to her borders? We get some clue when we consider what has happened when movements, only slightly unenthusiastic about total Soviet control have emerged in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Indeed, the howls of protest against NATO bases in Norway and Turkey, and U.S. military presence in West Germany and elsewhere in Western Europe, provide hints as to how the U.S.S.R. would react to such a situation.

2. Speaking of the uproar that has broken out from time to time over NATO bases in Norway and Turkey, it is odd that there is no similar protest here about the 4,400 Soviet troops in Cuba, to say nothing of Soviet submarines in a Cuban submarine base, millions of rubles in Soviet military and economic aid, several units of the Soviet air force, and Soviet advisors in almost every Cuban government department.

3. It appears that many of the same people who carry on an unending hullabaloo about 55 U.S. advisers in El Salvador are not equally concerned about 4,400 Soviet troops and untold numbers of Soviet advisers in Cuba, to say nothing about Cuban personnel and advisors in Nicaragua, Grenada and Surinam.

4. One cannot but wonder whether ex-President James Monroe is revolving rapidly in his grave. Someone should go and check it out.

The solution to this looming menace is rather obvious:

Without attempting to interfere in any way

with the internal political or economic system of Cuba or any other country, demand that all extraordinary Soviet personnel as well as all Soviet economic and military assistance, including all Soviet military units, be removed forthwith from Cuba and from anywhere else in the Carribbean or Central America; and that personnel of Soviet embassies in all such countries be reduced to some minimal numbers essential for carrying on normal diplomatic duties.

Someone will complain that this might get us into serious trouble with the U.S.S.R. No doubt the Soviet Union will complain bitterly and there will be much breast-beating from the U.S.S.R. and her friends. With a three-day ultimatum, such a painful period can be reduced considerably; and if we cannot bring about removal of the excessive Soviet presence from under our noses, we can stop talking about what we are going to do in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia, etc. If we don't achieve such a removal, there will be no independent United States to do anything anywhere. (i.e. in other countries)

When things settle down in the Carribbean and Central America, it will be of vital importance that the U.S.A. do everything in its power to help the republics of that area resolve their appalling problems and to establish constitutional democracy on the Costa Rican model. Their outrageous economic and social conditions should embarrass a nation so near and so powerful as the United States.

That accomplished, there will be neither incentive nor support for revolutionary Marxist movements and governments in the Caribbean or Central America. Marxist governments invariably deliver their countries into the arms of their more powerful Marxist brethren abroad. Non-Marxist governments avoid such entanglements like the plague.

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