

How Senator Dole Is Helping To Start The Next War

Senator Robert Dole, who reminded the nation last fall that the Democrats have started every war for the last century, is now prepared to help start one himself. On the heels of the Carter announcement that the U.S. and Cuba will exchange diplomats and consular officials as "interest sections" of the Swiss and Czech embassies in Washington and Havana, Dole has authored a Senate resolution which specifies the following preconditions for the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba: 1. the withdrawal of all Cuban troops from Africa; 2. the release of all American prisoners in Cuba and progress toward the establishment of "human rights" in Cuba; 3. compensation for all property nationalized by Cuba after the 1958 revolution; and 4. the renewal of the U.S.-Cuban anti-hijacking treaty which expired in April.

Dole's resolution, which will be sponsored in the House by Representative Broomfield of Indiana, already has the support of Senators Goldwater, Hayakawa, Helms and others. It caps a week in which leading conservatives have been straining to outdo each other in denunciations of the Carter announcement. Senator Baker called this "The worst conceivable moment to improve relations with Cuba." Former President Ford asserted that it is a mistake to establish relations with "a country that propagates communism." Dole specified in his own statements that the problem is "Castro has made no concessions" to the U.S. as yet.

Dole's position agrees exactly with that of Trilateral Commission member Sol Linowitz whose script on the establishment of relations with Cuba calls for "a sequence of reciprocal actions" which will gradually force Cuba to concede on its Africa policy and on the question of human rights. The Linowitz approach was first laid out last December in the report drawn up for the Administration by the Commission on U.S.-Latin American Relations and generally known as the Linowitz Report. Significantly, the report identified the other major confrontation point in the hemisphere as the Panama Canal — an issue which draws a like response from conservatives.

Since Cuba has made it clear since the beginning of the negotiations that its Africa policy was "non-negotiable" and has rejected as "hypocrisy" Carter's human rights stance, the Linowitz scenario can only lead to headlong confrontation with Cuba and with the Soviet Union itself — and that is precisely its intent.

The more recent publication on Latin America of the equally Trilateral-dominated Commission on Critical Choices, of which Linowitz is also a member, spells this policy out even more explicitly as an attempt at "making Cuba the Socialist camp's first true deserter." However

the Commission is equally explicit that the cost of this policy may be U.S.-Soviet confrontation. As they state it: "Neither the Soviets nor the Cubans are likely to alter their course until they are sometime confronted by the United States." In other words the policy is a replay of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. But this time the USSR will not back down.

In addition, the Commission directly tied the Panama Canal question to confrontation with Cuba. Their report makes clear that opposition to the negotiation of a treaty that would give Panama control of the canal is as much part of the regional confrontation plans as are the negotiations themselves. They predict a chain of events "that would begin with the Senate rejection of the treaty," lead to "low-level violence," or possibly to "a prolonged campaign of terrorism and outright guerilla warfare," conducted with help that "could only come from Castro's Cuba." "In such a case," the Commission asserts, "the United States should certainly take the measures necessary to protect itself from outside intervention."

The barrage of conservative and editorial objections to Cuba's failure to make substantive concessions to date has already escalated this scenario into a "phase two" mode. The atmosphere is being created in which the Carter Administration can demand the virtual abrogation of Cuba's revolution and the "intransigent" Cubans can be identified as an enemy of the U.S., setting the preconditions for confrontation. The *Baltimore Sun* has asserted that Castro "should be tested rather than appeased." The *Washington Post* complains: "Has Fidel Castro been told in effect that he can have the advantages of normalized relations even while continuing unabated the interventionist policy (in Africa) of which the Carter Administration officially complains?" According to the *New York Times* the Administration has warned right on cue that any improvement in relations could be quickly undone by "opposition in Congress to the Administration's initiatives and reports that Dr. Castro plans to send troops to join the military advisors that Washington believes have been sent to Ethiopia."

The Next World War

With the notion of containing the liberals' "sell-out to the Commies" by forcing a hardline show of force, conservatives are simply proposing the Linowitz war games strategy — the Carter policy. Conservatives are actually lowering the threshold for world war by giving dominant Soviet military forces the impression that there is no opposition in the U.S. to the Carter Administration's war policies.

— Cornelia Reynolds