

How Did Nikita Explain Cuba to Comrades?

By GERARD E. SHERRY
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"My man in the Kremlin" has come forward with an exclusive for readers of this column. It seems as if Khrushchev was asked to explain to the members of last month's Central Committee meeting in Moscow, the latest Russian success in Cuba.

Nikita said he would be delighted. He pointed out that the missiles in Cuba nearly succeeded in compromising the U.S. military position in the Western Hemisphere. Furthermore, although defensive in nature, they could have wiped out New Orleans, Dallas, Washington, Baltimore and New York. Our only mistake, he observed, was in being found out.

Khrushchev bitterly denounced the despicable tactics of the American government. He said Mr. Kennedy had the audacity to send U-2 planes over a free and sovereign nation; and to send in spies to check on Russian technicians.

"Comrades," Nikita complained, "Our man in Havana merely asked us for some assistance in establishing a few electronic gadgets. As a matter of fact, the only personnel available were technicians trained in missile warfare. We decided to send them and their missiles. This would kill two birds with one stone. They could continue to be trained in missile techniques and use them for defensive purposes. We also sent in some logistical support groups. You know, cooks from the atomic bomber command. Those planes that Kennedy keeps complaining about were used merely to carry cooking equipment and the like. They do have atomic bombs as a matter of routine; but you gentlemen know we would never use them.

"We are peace-loving nation. We have no designs on anyone. Gentlemen, Fidel is having a lot of trouble. He wins the Revolution with the aid of those warmongering Americans, and then proceeds to fight for national unity. He jails all those who don't agree with him — shooting a couple of thousand as an example to the rest — and then, strangely enough, the Americans turn sour. They don't like Castro anymore and proceed to boycott his sugar. Then they cut off diplomatic relations and turn the rest of the Americas against him.

"As you know, Fidel and his brother have always been comrades, even when they were fighting Batista. Naturally, we didn't want them to admit it because our Communist ideology was not as popular then as it is

now. However, we are always for freedom of thought and expression. The Americans claim they are, too; but they act so differently. They didn't like Fidel after he adopted, publicly, our way of life. That's aggression, gentlemen. And we must always be willing to defend the weak against the war-mongers."

"Comrade Nikita," one of the Central Committee big wigs interrupted, "we know all this. Cut out the propaganda and come to the point. Tell us about how we saved Cuba and world peace."

"Yes, yes," interrupted another comrade, "cut out the cackle and give us the facts. We know what a liar you are, Nikita. Spare us the Pravda line and give us the truth. Did we really win that recent bout with the Kennedy clan?"

"You're a suspicious lot, Comrades," Khrushchev complained. "Of course it was a success — a great victory for the Soviet Government and all peace-loving people in the world. The trouble is, we were told on good authority that Kennedy was a Liberal and would not fight if we threatened long and loud enough. He fooled us on that and started to threaten a war."

"Frankly, I was amazed. Do you know, he was almost ready to invade Cuba if our missiles continued to be trained on his big cities. However, we fooled him. We would never start a war without we had the advantage. Our spies in Washington told us of the enormous military power of the Washington warmongers and we decided to wait a little longer for the opportunity to finish off these people.

"Another thing — Fidel is our friend. But is he worth the destruction of Moscow, our dachas in the suburbs, or the shoddy goods in the Gum department store? No, Comrades! Fidel is useful only as long as he can subvert the rest of the Western Hemisphere. Indeed, we might have to dump him soon and pick another fellow to run Cuba for us. This, we can decide upon when Comrade Mikoyan returns from Havana. By the way, he's having a devil of a job with the Castro crowd. Fidel is complaining that we are treating him like our other puppets in Eastern Europe. How ridiculous can you get! He's got a long way to go before he's as good as they."

"Nikita," a tired member of the Central Committee said, "we have been very patient with you. Won't you please tell us about the victory in Cuba. So far, all we've heard about has already appeared in Pravda and Isvestia. But, Comrade, we want the truth."

Brother in Moscow

'Treated Wonderfully'

Dayton — (NC) — A Marianist Brother has disclosed here that he spent a month in study at the University of Moscow last summer. It was not known there that he was a member of a religious order.

Brother Gerard J. E. Sullivan, S.M., a specialist in languages, said in an interview that he participated in an international seminar for teachers of Russian, along with two other Americans.

The University of Dayton faculty member said his experience convinces him that communication between the peoples of the west and of the communist countries offer at least a chance for some thawing in the cold war.

IF THERE is no personal contact on any level, there is a danger that sooner or later, "somebody is going to pull the trigger," he said.

Brother Sullivan, who speaks

seven languages, including Russian which he taught himself eight years ago, sought permission from the Soviet embassy in Washington to enter the Soviet Union to see educational facilities and attend the seminar.

When he left the United States for a language workshop in Israel early in the summer, he was still without permission to enter the U.S.S.R.

However, after leaving Israel and going to Paris, he found waiting for him at his hotel a telegram from the Soviet Ministry of Education inviting him to come to Moscow.

During the 28 days at Moscow University, he and the 69 other participants in the seminar were well-treated and not subjected to propaganda, "unless you would call treating us wonderfully as propaganda," he said.

Brother Sullivan said he attended Mass and went to confession at a "Polish church" in Moscow. An Irish priest conducted services, he related. About 200 persons, mostly elderly women, were at the Mass.

Nazi Foe Now 77

Norwich, Vt. — (NC) — Heinrich Bruening, leader of the Catholic Center party who served as Chancellor of Germany until Adolf Hitler came to power in 1932, celebrated his 77th birthday in a simple cottage overlooking this picturesque Connecticut River town.

Bruening, who waged a futile struggle to maintain a democratic government in Germany, first came to Norwich when he delivered a series of lectures at Dartmouth College in nearby Hanover, a year after leaving Germany. He moved here several years later after retiring as professor of public administration at Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass. He lives in almost complete obscurity.

Five Priests In Diocese

Edgerton, Wis. — (RNS) — When Bishop-elect William Murphy, C.Ss.R., takes over the Brazilian Catholic Diocese of Juazeiro in January, he will be faced with problems that are extraordinary even in priest-short Latin America.

To help care for the 140,000 souls under his jurisdiction, he will have only five priests — one a Brazilian diocesan priest and four Redemptorists from Holland.

Unity Prelate To Visit U.S.

Boston — (NC) — Augustin Cardinal Bea, S.J., president of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, tenatively is scheduled to give an address at Harvard University in March.

Plans call for Cardinal Bea to address a meeting sponsored by Harvard University's divinity school. The full program for the meeting and the date have not as yet been determined.

Cardinal Cushing said he and Cardinal Bea would go on "a stumping tour" in several eastern states to stress closer unity between Catholics, Protestants and Jews. The Boston prelate said "we will travel anywhere and speak to anyone who will invite us."

It is likely that Cardinal Bea also will speak at Boston University, which is affiliated with the Methodist church, and at Boston College, which is conducted by the Jesuits, Cardinal Cushing said.

Site Chosen

San Francisco — (NC) — A site for the rebuilding of St. Mary's Cathedral has been chosen. It is in a downtown redevelopment area two blocks from the old cathedral which was destroyed in a spectacular fire on September 7.

"We hope to create a wonderful climate of unity of all believers in the Supreme Being," Cardinal Cushing said. "We will leave unity of faith to the providence of Almighty God." He said that today a third of the earth's people are being brainwashed by the communists and "we are living in an era when atheism is on the march." To combat this, he said, "every faith has a need the use of mass communications."

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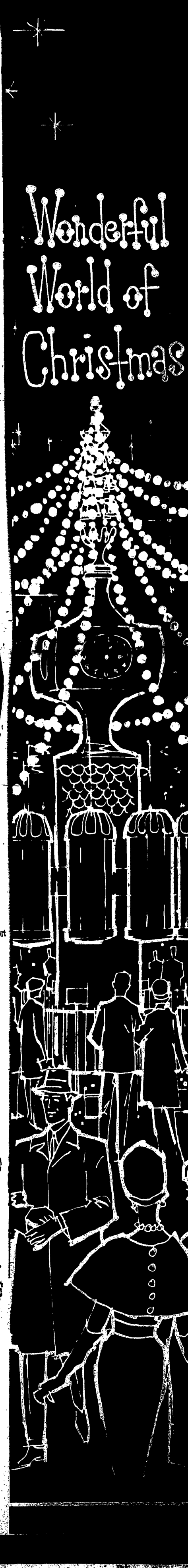
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By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Our Blessed Lord very often speaks of that which we call our own as belonging to another. First of all, it belongs to Him; secondly, any surplus that we have belongs to our neighbor. The only things that we have that are really our own are what we are. All possessions, be it our house, our car or the money in our pockets, are tied to us by a very thin thread. Like the pearls that are sometimes sewn into the jackets of Eastern sultans but shake off as the walk, our apparent ownership is only for a moment; we merely transmit: "Twas mine, 'tis His, and has been slave to thousands."

The best way to double our riches is to share them—if the sun ever folded back upon itself, it would lose its light, and we would be in darkness. Even the smallest gift may be employed for the highest end. Out of all who dropped money into the treasury of the Temple, it was the woman who gave two pennies on whom Our Lord's eyes dwelt with the greatest love. In the same spirit, notice that the "God Love You's" we extend to those who make sacrifices are usually for small amounts, but they are offerings wrapped with tremendous love of the Church and the Missions. Those who have great possessions find them hard to part with for spiritual purposes. But those who give the little they have part with more, because they give a greater percentage of wealth, and they do it gladly.

There is a beautiful rabbinical story that when Moses was tending Jethro's flock in Midian, a kid went astray. He sought it and found it drinking at a spring. "Thou art weary," he said, and lifted it on his shoulders and carried it home. Then God said to him: "Since thou hast pity for a man's beast, thou shalt be shepherd of Israel, my flock."

May we ask you to sacrifice some luxury each day, set aside the equivalent and then send it to the Holy Father through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Though you give little, you will be giving much, for it will be representative of your love for God and His Missions.

GOD LOVE YOU to C.B.P. for \$3.05 "I am seven years old. At Halloween, for my trick or treat, I asked for pennies for the poor children in the Missions. I hope this helps them." . . . to T.J.L. for \$2.00 "To use as the Holy Father sees fit." . . . to B.H. for \$1 "For the first time I am trying to help instead of just crying over the stories of the hungry in mission lands I will send more as soon as I can." . . . to Dr. H.M. for \$5 "My brother, who is also a doctor, has a habit of letting his medical records stack up quite high before he completes them. I promised to send this offering to the Missions if he finished them all at one sitting. He must really love the Missions—he did!"

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