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AM-SOVIETROOPS 9-1

(ANALYSIS)

BY JUAN J. WALTE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, AS THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS ENDED, PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND SOVIET LEADER NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV EXCHANGED LETTERS THAT STILL AFFECT SOVIET MILITARY MANEUVERS IN THE CARIBBEAN.

THE KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV UNDERSTANDING OF OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1962 WAS EXPANDED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IN 1970. PRESIDENT CARTER APPARENTLY INTENDS TO FURTHER WIDEN ITS SCOPE.

THE UNDERSTANDING, UNDER WHICH THE SOVIETS AGREED NOT TO INTRODUCE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS INTO CUBA, WAS PUT IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN WITH THE DISCLOSURE THAT A SOVIET COMBAT UNIT IS ON THE COMMUNIST-RULED ISLAND.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID FRIDAY THE 2,000- TO 3,000-MAN UNIT DOES NOT VIOLATE THE KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV AGREEMENT, BUT IT DOES RAISE CONCERN OVER SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY POLICY IN THE CARIBBEAN.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE CLEAR THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES ANY EFFORTS BY THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASES IN CUBA, OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

SPOKESMAN CARTER DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER THIS POLICY REPRESENTS A BROADENING OF THE KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV UNDERSTANDING OR AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE 1823 MONROE DOCTRINE, UNDER WHICH FOREIGN POWERS WERE TOLD TO STAY OUT OF THE AMERICAS.

WHATEVER THE CASE, THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS WOULD SEEM TO BE THE SAME.

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, REFERRED TO THE MONROE DOCTRINE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE LAST WEEK.

"SINCE THE TIME OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE, THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE HAS BEEN OFF BOUNDS FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS," HE SAID. "IT SEEMS TO ME THIS IS THE TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO REASSERT THIS POLICY."

IN THE KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV LETTERS, THE SOVIET UNION AGREED THAT NO OFFENSIVE WEAPONS -- SUCH AS THE MISSILES WHICH SPARKED THE 1962 CRISIS -- WOULD AGAIN BE PLACED IN CUBA.

IN 1970, FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF A SUBMARINE BASE AT CIENFUEGOS, THE SOVIETS WERE TOLD THE UNDERSTANDING ALSO INCLUDED SEA-BASED OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS SUCH AS NUCLEAR SUBMARINES.

PERIODIC SOVIET NAVAL CALLS ON CUBAN PORTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID. NEITHER DID LAST YEAR'S STATIONING IN CUBA OF SOVIET-MADE MIG-23 JET FIGHTERS.

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