

*Def Cubaful*

# Appendix

**Part 6: Let's Keep the Record Straight—  
A Selected Chronology of Cuba and  
Castro—October 22–29, 1962**

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. DON L. SHORT

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 1963

Mr. SHORT. Mr. Speaker, this sixth portion of my continued chronology on Cuba and Castro begins with the action by President Kennedy in imposing a sea and air "quarantine" on the shipment of military equipment to Cuba—of which the public was informed on the evening of October 21, 1962, during a nationwide TV broadcast.

It had been apparent for several days to most people in political and government circles, as well as the press, that something unusual was afoot. The return of President Kennedy from his very active speaking tour on behalf of Democrat candidates for House and Senate seats was more or less a tipoff to many that something out of the ordinary was happening.

I believe it is safe to say that the American public, although understandably on edge, gave an almost collective sigh of relief after the broadcast was over. Although many felt the action taken should have been stronger, most were glad at least that it was not weaker. The public, almost to a man, expressed their complete support of the action taken by President Kennedy in finally drawing a definite line of demarcation on what the U.S. Government would tolerate as far as Cuba and the Soviets were concerned. The public had for a long long while been frustrated and uneasy about efforts which had been made for almost a generation to keep a steady footing and clear head in dealing with the Soviets. The harassment and humiliating thrusts from Castro in Cuba had been almost more than they could take—therefore the action taken by the President amounted at least to an assertion of our national pride—and a natural concern over the safety and welfare of our citizens and the security of our way of life. All seemed relieved that the President had, at long last, "dropped the other shoe." It appeared that this had the effect of welding together formerly warring factions, and we seemed to be joined in a common purpose—to protect our Nation.

This same electric impulse somehow touched many foreign nations who shared our love of freedom, but who had obviously doubted for some time our will to fight for it. One by one, many who previously had engaged in sniping at the

United States—accusing us of being too soft—too hard—too vacillating—or too concerned about the whole subject of communism—Latin American countries and NATO allies alike—all lined up behind the United States and expressed approval and support. Although some had to be convinced by photographic proof that a threat really existed in Cuba—such as Great Britain—it did not take too long for the British as well as Mexico and several of the Latin and Central American countries to realize that this threat indeed existed and could swing in many directions—and that whether they liked it or not, their national fortunes were also involved to one degree or another.

The Soviets were, of course, shocked and unbelieving. They accused us of hysteria. Somehow they had formed the opinion that we would not, as a nation, "fight when the chips were down." They seemed to have forgotten or overlooked the fact that many times in the past we had successfully held the line against Soviet advances or threats—such as during the Berlin blockade-airlift, our resumption of nuclear testing after the U.S.S.R. had broken their moratorium, Korea, the Chinese Nationalist Government in Formosa, and so forth. The significance of these stands taken by the United States had somehow been overlooked by the Soviets and they had formed an unflattering opinion of what they termed our "softness" as a Nation.

The following chronology of events will refresh our minds on the variety of charges, countercharges, threats and counterthreats, which took place but through it all, I do not believe the spirit of unity of the American public ever really wavered. They had wanted firm action by the President and others concerned with our national and foreign policy—and were overjoyed that this had taken place. The comment was often heard that if President Kennedy had been running for reelection in the fall campaign, he would win "hands down" against any candidate—and I am fairly sure this was true.

I would like to point out here, however, that if the American public showed their pride in President Kennedy because of his action, the President had even more reason to be proud of the American public. For he had, whether intentionally or not, created an atmosphere not only in foreign countries but in his own as well which can best be described by a paragraph taken from the Globe and Mail, Canada's leading conservative newspaper, in an editorial entitled "Mr. Kennedy's Arrogance," and printed on December 31, 1962:

Mr. Kennedy's high-handed attitudes and ruthless methods attracted a great deal of unfavorable comment in the United States and abroad during his campaign for the Presidency. His record in the White House

has not been reassuring; often he seems to confuse willfulness with toughness, and bullying with strength.

The chronology follows:

A SELECTED CHRONOLOGY ON CUBA AND CASTRO—PART 6

October 22, 1962: In a speech of extraordinary gravity, President Kennedy imposed a sea and air "quarantine" last night on the shipment of military equipment to Cuba. Broadcasting to the American people and listeners abroad, he said the Soviet Union was building offensive missile and bomber bases in Cuba. He said the bases could fire medium-range nuclear missiles 2,000 miles. Calling on Premier Khrushchev to withdraw the missiles, he said any launching against a Western Hemisphere nation would be met by retaliation against the Soviet Union. He made clear that Washington would not stop short of military action to end the provocative threat.

American warships and planes quickly put the quarantine into effect and a worldwide alert went out to U.S. Forces. Destroyers, submarines, and other units put to sea all along the eastern seaboard to join a large Caribbean fleet, which included 40 ships and 6,000 marines diverted from maneuvers.

After nearly a generation of trying to avoid a direct United States-Soviet confrontation, the United States drew the line—not with Cuba but with the Russians. Mr. Kennedy's order bore out his decision to oust Soviet missiles from his hemisphere at the risk of war. American ships have orders to attack blockade runners that resist.

Havana radio said Cuba's armed forces were alerted after Mr. Kennedy's speech.

London sources said Britain would approve the quarantine. Canada closed some of its airbases to Soviet planes bound for Cuba.

Moscow radio charges hysteria in Washington. (Foreign Affairs Division, Oct. 22, 1962.)

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A SELECTED CHRONOLOGY ON CUBA, OCTOBER 23–25, 1962

October 23, 1962: Soviet Government statement (handed to the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow) warns the United States that its quarantine raises the threat of thermo-nuclear world war. It says that the Soviet Union has "repeatedly declared that not a single Soviet nuclear bomb would fall either on the United States or on any other country unless an aggression is committed. \* \* \* But if the aggressors touch off a war, the Soviet Union would strike a most powerful retaliatory blow." The statement insists that the weapons provided to Cuba by the Soviet Union were "aimed solely at enhancing Cuba's defense potential." It adds: "The United States demands that military equipment Cuba needs for self-defense should be removed from Cuban territory, a demand which, naturally, no state which values its independence can meet."

The U.S. blockade against ships delivering offensive weapons to Cuba goes into effect. U.S. Secretary of Defense McNamara announces that 25 Soviet merchant ships have been spotted on the way to Cuba, and that the first U.S. Navy contact with these ships will be in 24 hours.

Premier Fidel Castro (in a televised speech) describes the U.S. blockade of Cuba

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as an act of piracy. He says that Cuba will "never" accept the U.S. plan for a U.N. investigating committee to check on Soviet missile bases in Cuba.

The United States introduces a resolution in the U.N. Security Council calling for the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

The Council of the Organization of American States (after granting itself emergency powers as a ministerial-level organ of consultation under provisions of the 1947 Rio Treaty) formally authorizes (by a vote of 19 to 0, with 1 abstention) "the use of armed forces" to carry out the quarantine of Cuba. (Uruguay—which abstains on a technicality due to a delay in instructions from the Montevideo Government adds its affirmative vote.) "[In] the greatest display of Western Hemisphere solidarity since the days of World War II—Latin America acted swiftly to join the United States in recommending all necessary measures to halt the flow of offensive weapons to Cuba from the Soviet bloc."

The British Government expresses "deep concern at the provocative action of the Soviet Union in placing offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba," and declares its support of the U.S. position. "NATO lined up solidly behind the United States. The 14 other members of the NATO Permanent Council at Paris took under urgent consideration the question of a military alert for their forces."

October 24, 1962: U.S. Defense Department announces that some Soviet-bloc ships headed for Cuba appear to have changed their course, while others are still proceeding.

U.N. Secretary General U Thant sends urgent appeals to President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev asking them to suspend, respectively, the blockade and the shipment of arms to Cuba, for a period of 2 or 3 weeks which would allow for negotiations.

In answer to a telegram from the British philosopher and pacifist, Bertrand Russell, who had appealed to Soviet Premier Khrushchev "not to be provoked by the unjustifiable action of the United States in Cuba," Khrushchev (in his reply) calls on the United States to "display reserve and stay the threat of execution of its practical threats which are fraught with most serious consequences," and he suggests a summit meeting "in order to discuss all the problems which have arisen, to do everything to remove the danger of unleashing a thermo-nuclear war."

October 25, 1962:

U.S. Navy intercepts the first Soviet ship (an oil tanker) to penetrate the blockade, and allows it to continue on its way to Cuba after it is determined that it carries no offensive arms.

Soviet Premier Khrushchev accepts U.N. Secretary General U Thant's proposal of October 24 for a suspension of the U.S. blockade and Soviet shipments of arms, and for talks leading to a negotiated solution of the Cuban crisis. President Kennedy (in his reply to U Thant) says that "the existing threat was created by the secret introduction of offensive weapons into Cuba, and the answer lies in the removal of these weapons." He says that the United States is willing to engage in "preliminary talks" with the U.N. to see whether a satisfactory basis can be found for negotiations on the Cuban crisis.

In the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Delegate Adlai Stevenson displays photographic evidence of Soviet missile bases in Cuba, after Soviet delegate Valerian A. Zorin insists that the U.S. assertion is based on false evidence. Stevenson-Zorin exchange in the U.N. Security Council, October 25, 1962:

Stevenson: "Let me ask you one simple question: Do you deny that the U.S.S.R. has placed and is placing medium- and intermediate-range missiles in Cuba? Yes or no?"

Do not wait for the translation. Yes or no?" Zorin: "I am not in an American courtroom, and, therefore, I do not wish to answer a question that is put to me in the fashion of a prosecutor. In due course you will have your reply."

Stevenson: "You are in the courtroom of world opinion right now, and you can answer 'Yes' or 'No.' You have denied that they exist, and I want to know whether I have understood you correctly."

Zorin: "Will you please continue your statement? You will have your answer in due course."

Stevenson: "I am prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over. If that is your decision. I am also prepared to present the evidence in this room."

Canadian Government endorses the U.S. position in the Cuban crisis. Prime Minister Diefenbaker says (in the Canadian House of Commons) that the Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba are a direct and immediate menace to Canada and a serious menace to the deterrent and strategic strength of the whole Western alliance on which our security is founded.

British Prime Minister Macmillan (in a speech to the House of Commons on the Cuban crisis) does not specifically endorse the U.S. blockade, but says that the measures taken by President Kennedy are not extreme, since they are designed to meet a situation without precedent. He expresses the hope that a peaceful solution to the crisis will soon be found which will make it possible to move to a wider field of negotiation. However, he adds: "I think what has happened in the last few weeks must confirm our view that in these grave matters we cannot rest upon mere words and promises. These need, if they are to restore confidence, to be independently verified and confirmed."

October 26, 1962: In answer to a new appeal from United Nations Secretary General U Thant, Soviet Premier Khrushchev agrees to keep Soviet ships away from the U.S. blockade area for the time being, and President Kennedy says that he will try to avoid any direct confrontation at sea "in the next few days." Kennedy points out, however, that certain Soviet ships are still proceeding toward Cuba, and that work on Soviet missile bases in Cuba is still continuing.

The White House issues a statement which says: "The development of ballistic missile sites in Cuba continues at a rapid pace. . . . The activity at these sites apparently is directed at achieving a full operational capability as soon as possible. . . . there is no evidence to date indicating that there is any intention to dismantle or discontinue work on these missile sites. On the contrary, the Soviets are rapidly continuing the construction of missile support and launch facilities and serious attempts are underway to camouflage their efforts."

The U.S. Navy stops and searches a Soviet-chartered freighter of Lebanese registry. The ship is allowed to proceed to Cuba after no offensive weapons are found on board.

A message from Premier Khrushchev (which is not made public) reaches President Kennedy: "Never explicitly stated, but embedded in the letter was an offer to withdraw the offensive weapons under United Nations supervision in return for a guarantee that the United States would not invade Cuba."

October 27, 1962: President Kennedy receives a second message from Premier Khrushchev (made public in a Moscow broadcast), which proposes that the Soviet Union will dismantle its missile bases in Cuba and withdraw its jet bombers from the island, if the United States will do likewise in Turkey. In his reply to Khrushchev, Kennedy ignores the proposal to link Turkey with Cuba, and

bases his answers on Khrushchev's private letter of October 26 which—Kennedy says—contains proposals "which seem generally acceptable," i.e., the Soviet Union would dismantle its bases and remove its offensive weapons from Cuba under U.N. supervision, and would halt further shipment of such weapons to Cuba, and in exchange the United States would end the quarantine and give assurances against an invasion of Cuba. Kennedy adds: "I am confident that other nations of the Western Hemisphere would be prepared to do likewise." Kennedy emphasizes that "the first ingredient . . . is the cessation of work on missile sites in Cuba and measures to render such weapons inoperable, under effective international guarantees. The continuation of this threat, or a prolonging of this discussion concerning Cuba by linking these problems to the broader questions of European and world security, would surely lead to an intensification of the Cuban crisis and a grave risk to the peace of the world."

The White House issues a statement which implicitly rejects Khrushchev's proposed Cuba-Turkey deal: "Several inconsistent and conflicting proposals have been made by the U.S.S.R. within the last 24 hours, including the one just made public in Moscow. The proposal broadcast this morning involved the security of nations outside the Western Hemisphere, but it is the Western Hemisphere countries and they alone that are subject to the threat that has produced the present crisis—the action of the Soviet Government in secretly introducing offensive weapons into Cuba. . . . The first imperative must be to deal with this immediate threat, under which no sensible negotiation can proceed. . . . As to the proposals concerning the security of nations outside this hemisphere, the United States and its allies have long taken the lead in seeking properly inspected arms limitation on both sides. These efforts can continue as soon as the present Soviet-created threat is ended." Well-informed sources [at NATO headquarters in Paris] indicated that they regarded the kind of horse trading proposed by Mr. Khrushchev as dangerous to Western security and the morale of the Atlantic alliance. It was pointed out that the missile bases in Turkey were put there on the openly proclaimed decision of the heads of government of the NATO states in December, 1957 . . . [and] this was in direct response to repeated threats of employment of Soviet missiles against the West. It would be intolerable, in the opinion of some Western diplomats, to equate this action with the clandestine installation of Soviet missiles in Cuba at a time when the highest Soviet officials were proclaiming that none but defensive arms were being supplied to Cuba.

The U.S. Defense Department announces that a U-2 reconnaissance plane is missing and presumed lost over Cuba, and that other unarmed U.S. planes on surveillance missions over Cuba have been fired on. The Defense Department warns that measures will be taken to "insure that such missions are effective and protected." At the same time, the Defense Department announces that 24 troop-carrier squadrons of the Air Force Reserve are being recalled to active duty. In this connection, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara says: "We must be prepared for any eventuality." Premier Fidel Castro (in answer to an appeal from U.N. Secretary General U Thant) says that Cuba will suspend work on missile bases while negotiations are in progress if the United States "desists from threats and aggressive actions against Cuba, including the naval blockade of our country." He invites U Thant to come to Cuba "with a view to direct discussions on the present crisis."

Communist saboteurs in Venezuela blow up 4 electric power stations of the U.S.-controlled Creole Petroleum Co.'s installations at Lake Maracaibo, thereby cutting Venezuela's oil production by 500,000 barrels a day and reducing by \$1.2 million a day Venezuela's Federal oil revenues which make up 70 percent of its budget. It is estimated that it will take 1 to 3 months to repair the power stations.

October 28, 1962, Premier Khrushchev (in a message to President Kennedy) announces that he has ordered the dismantling of Soviet missile bases in Cuba and the return of Soviet offensive weapons to the Soviet Union, to be carried out under U.N. supervision.

President Kennedy issues a statement, welcoming Khrushchev's statesmanlike decision, and says (in a message to Khrushchev) that the Cuban blockade will be removed as soon as the U.N. has taken the necessary measures, and he pledges that the United States will not invade Cuba. Kennedy says that he attaches great importance to a rapid settlement of the Cuban crisis, because "developments were approaching a point where events could have become unmanageable."

Premier Fidel Castro issues a statement which declares that the United States must fulfill five conditions if the present crisis is to be resolved. These are: (1) End of economic blockade and all measures of commercial and economic pressure exercised against Cuba by the United States. (2) End of all subversive activities, dropping and landing of arms and explosives by air and sea, organization of mercenary invasions, infiltration of spies and saboteurs, "all of which actions are organized in the territory of the United States and certain accomplice countries." (3) End of pirate attacks carried out from bases in the United States and Puerto Rico. (4) End of all violations of air and naval space by U.S. planes and ships. (5) U.S. withdrawal from the naval base of Guantanamo and return of this territory to Cuba.

October 29, 1962: United States announces it will lift the blockade of Cuba for 2 days, at the request of the U.N. Secretary General U Thant during the latter's mission to Cuba which begins on October 30. (On the next day, the United States also suspends its air surveillance of Cuba during U Thant's 2-day mission.)

President Kennedy appoints a three-man coordinating committee (headed by John J. McCloy, former disarmament adviser, Under Secretary of State George Ball and Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric) to carry on negotiations for a conclusion of the Cuban crisis with U.N. Secretary General U Thant and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov (Premier Khrushchev's special envoy, sent to the U.N. to negotiate about the dismantling of the Soviet bases in Cuba).

### Proposed Supplement to the Peace Corps

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

**HON. GALE W. MCGEE**

OF WYOMING

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Monday, February 4, 1963

Mr. MCGEE. Mr. President, recently there appeared in the Bloomington, Ind., Herald-Telephone daily newspaper an editorial about one of our distinguished colleagues, the senior Senator from Indiana, Senator VANCE HARTKE.

The editorial suggests that Senator HARTKE has proposed a valuable supple-

ment to the Peace Corps, which is doing an outstanding job for this Nation.

Senator HARTKE's proposal would make the talents of retired American businessmen and industrialists available to underdeveloped countries by sending such persons to those countries to assist and direct in building business and industry, which is the key to dissipating poverty and raising the standard of living.

Since this editorial deserves the attention of the Members of this Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have the following editorial printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bloomington (Ind.) Herald-Telephone]

#### HARTKE PROPOSES VALUABLE SUPPLEMENT

Indiana Senator VANCE HARTKE has come up with a plan, a sort of supplement to the Peace Corps, which seems to be a good means of accomplishing several goals of this country.

HARTKE would make talents of retired American businessmen and industrialists available to underdeveloped countries by sending such persons to those countries to assist and direct in building business and industry which is the key to dissipating poverty and raising the standard of living.

HARTKE said that these retired persons would use their vast reservoir of productive talents to advise business leaders in countries including newly emerging African nations. He urged Commerce Department Secretary Luther Hodges to make available the talents of these retired Americans.

The idea has much merit in that it apparently would accomplish a great deal without a tremendous outlay of taxpayers' cash.

Since most persons who would be available are already reasonably well fixed with pensions, savings, social security, etc., they would probably be willing to serve at comparatively low remuneration. It would give them, however, an opportunity for foreign travel and adventure with no outlay of their fixed incomes.

The United States has millions of people who are still in the prime of life when they reach retirement age. Age 65 is becoming younger all the time. Look around the community and you will find a great many people past 65 competing vigorously in energy and vitality with people 20 years their junior. Yet many industries and large business organizations have arbitrary rules that when you are 65, you're through.

The Hoosier Senator said that his plan would give the Nation an unparalleled opportunity to win friends and increase the productive capacity of the world through utilization of our vast reservoir of productive talents.

Late last year, HARTKE spent several weeks in Africa, visiting the new nations on the continent. It is not difficult to imagine what he found. He found a continent abounding in natural resources but almost totally lacking in business and industry know-how and virtually devoid of ability to create and expand industry.

"Although the heads of government, ministers and leading businessmen were profoundly interested in the various types of aid we have made available to these new countries," he said, "they were unanimous in saying that of equal and perhaps paramount importance was the learning of the business and production techniques which have made our own country great.

"Everywhere I went there was a thirst for knowledge for American business methods

which are admired by nearly all Africans." He quoted I. N. N. Tambo, secretary general of the Federation of Nairobi Traders Association in Kenya, as saying "we need the American business know-how to survey our resources and markets, to set up small productive facilities, show us how to create demand and how to sell, how to treat our labor, how to make a profit, and how to expand."

The reservoir of retired American talent would be tremendous. There would be need of people with experience in all types of business and industry, large and small.

The idea in itself should be exciting to retired people in good health who have had limited opportunity to travel. They would not only be able to satisfy their desire for travel and adventure, but also to serve their country and humanity at the same time.

They would contribute to expansion of American trade as underdeveloped countries began to emerge from the darkness and become consumers of world products as well as producers.

They would strike severe blows at communism by teaching initiative and industriousness.

HARTKE's plan would not be heavily demanding on the participating retirees. They could work short hours and their service in any one country could be of short or long duration, depending on the desires of the people. They could be provided adequate earnings and expense money so that they would not have to endure hardship.

It appears that the plan may make it possible for many retired persons to find the most rewarding work of their lives.

HARTKE is interested in obtaining the views of his Hoosier constituents on the proposed program. Why don't you give him your ideas?

### John Duncan: Georgia's Big Man in Agriculture

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

**HON. G. ELLIOTT HAGAN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 1963

Mr. HAGAN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I would like to insert an excellent article on John P. Duncan, Jr., an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

John Duncan is truly dedicated to finding workable solutions to our agricultural problems; and needless to say, all Georgians are extremely proud of the wonderful job he is doing in the Department of Agriculture.

The article about Mr. Duncan, which appeared in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution magazine on January 20, 1963, was written by Miss Margaret Shannon, and I insert it in the RECORD believing it will be of much interest to my colleagues in the House:

JOHN DUNCAN: GEORGIA'S BIG MAN IN AGRICULTURE

(By Margaret Shannon)

WASHINGTON.—One day last month John P. Duncan, Jr., of Quitman, Ga., and Alexandria, Va., got a four-line memorandum from Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman. It didn't amount to much in wordage, but it just happened to mean that the onetime south Georgia farm boy had

14,000 additional employees to look after for a while.

Mr. Duncan is Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Stabilization. The memorandum assigned responsibility for the Cooperative Extension Service to his office temporarily. It was the sixth agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to come under his wing. Evidently somebody up here likes him.

Secretary Freeman must. He continues to pile work on him, and the 45-year-old former president of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation seems to thrive on it. His hair is almost white, but it has been that way for years. He keeps fit by playing squash with Secretary Freeman at the Pentagon or golfing in the eighties on a Virginia course when he has time.

The highest and best evidence that John Duncan is a success is the shift within the Department last March that put him in charge of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service right at the time of the Billie Sol Estes scandal. Actually ABCS had been taken away from James T. Ralph shortly before the scandal broke, and it fell Mr. Duncan's lot to straighten out a mess he hadn't made.

"We came out all right on Estes," Mr. Duncan said. "The Department didn't lose a nickel on him, and that's more than can be said for anybody else who dealt with him. We have all our grain, and we are holding \$2 million in escrow until final disposition of the case."

His presence in Dr. Ralph's old job at a time like that made him a target, too, and last July a Washington newspaper reported that Mr. Duncan once went to speak to the Texas Cotton Ginners Association and accepted free meals and hotel rooms from the organization.

Since Billie Sol's spreading of largesse among agricultural workers had been much talked of and testified about, this was news. Mr. Duncan at once asked the Agriculture Department auditor to check all his expense accounts. It turned out the Government owed him \$150 in unpaid per diem. Mr. Duncan also said that accepting room and board while on speaking engagements is a common practice for Government officials and lies within the code of conduct promulgated by the President.

Another kind of trouble came Mr. Duncan's way—or he came its way—when he went to Atlanta in December during the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention. He didn't go to the convention; he wasn't invited. He went to try to counteract on the scene some of the drastic Farm Bureau criticism of the Government's farm program.

Around the Department, they refer to Mr. Duncan in this role as a one-man truth squad. When the Farm Bureau president said the administration's farm program isn't working, Mr. Duncan fired back that it is, too, working and furthermore, farmers like it.

Such headaches—scandals, bad publicity, powerful opposition—are unpleasant, but they are minor compared to the one that Mr. Duncan calls the biggest of all: "Trying to find some way to cope with the capacity of the American farmer to produce."

"If you turned the American farmer loose to grow all he could, I don't know whether the oceans would hold it," Mr. Duncan said.

It seems an incurable headache. As Mr. Duncan sat talking about it, he'd just learned that the wheat crop estimate was up 25 percent even with thousands of acres taken out of production since the last crop. "That's a lot of wheat," he said.

So Mr. Duncan goes forth to battle with opposition to the Government farm program.

Sometimes the battleground is Capitol Hill, sometimes a convention hall, sometimes a press conference. He works, too, at his office—to make the program work.

A large part of the job of crop controls and surplus storage is carried on by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, one of the agencies that come under John Duncan's supervision. It is in a sense not only the center of the Government's farm program, but also the heart of American agriculture.

When Mr. Duncan left his 807-acre Brooks County farm and the presidency of the Georgia Farm Bureau to become Assistant Agriculture Secretary at the start of the Kennedy administration, he was placed in charge of the Foreign Agricultural Service. This was new stuff to him. He held the assignment for 15 months, and became a well-traveled man in that time.

He went to Punta del Este, Uruguay, in August 1961, and took part in drafting the Alliance for Progress. He went to Rome in November that year and to the Philippines later. He visited U.S. agricultural attachés around the world. Once he flew to London one day and back the next after opening an agricultural trade center there.

What impressed him most, he says, is the part food can play in America's efforts to stop communism and win the peace throughout the world.

"We can talk satellites and sputniks and all that, but the hungry man is more interested in feeding his children. And we have got so much more food to offer the world than have the Russians and other Communists.

"The hungry people in Africa, in South America, and in east Asia, where I visited, were not much interested in whether we or the Soviets put the first man in orbit or which of us was ahead in space. They are chiefly interested in getting food for themselves and their families, and that's where our food-for-peace program is winning us friends.

"I believe we can whip the Russians in the fight for men's minds if we can just put the food where it is needed. And the men who have given leadership to this fight are the American farmers with their abundant production."

Last May, delegates from 38 countries, meeting in Washington, elected Duncan as Chairman of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, representing 95 percent of the world's cotton production.

In the departmental reshufflings last spring, Mr. Duncan was given supervision over the Commodity Exchange Authority, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Agricultural Marketing Service, as well as ASCS and was placed on the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, largest corporation in the world. The Foreign Agricultural Service was assigned to someone else.

He didn't mind the change. "I'm kinda in a shop now that I'm familiar with," he said.

John Duncan learned the shop as a farmer who has never farmed except in the time of Government controls and price supports. In 1930, the year after he finished Emory University, tobacco growers decided they'd do better without the Government program. The result was a glut of tobacco on the market and a poor price for all.

"We have opposition now that wants the Government out of the farm business," he said. "The Government would like to get out, but you have to be realistic about it. The problem is not whether to have controls, but to get legislation that would do a better job at a lower cost to the Government."

The big farms could survive, but the fam-

ly farms couldn't, and Mr. Duncan is concerned about family farms. "You can't say to these people, 'Look, we're going to wipe you out just because you're not big,'" he declared. "We just don't do things that way in this country."

As the 88th Congress proceeds and the administration sends its farm proposals to the Hill, Mr. Duncan will be among the Agriculture Department's salesmen seeking support among the lawmakers. He gets a good share of the credit for saving the administration farm legislation from complete disaster last year. There was a series of cliff-hanging votes, and the Duncan influence helped to turn the tide.

Mr. Duncan averages about a trip a week to the White House to discuss farm problems with Presidential advisers and, on occasion, with President Kennedy himself.

There have been reports from time to time that the President is bored with farm problems and doesn't know much about them. Mr. Duncan does not agree.

"I'll say this—he's a lot more interested than President Eisenhower ever was," the Assistant Secretary says.

When the Cuban crisis threatened to develop into nuclear war, Mr. Duncan took part in high-level conferences on how to meet the Nation's food needs under enemy attack.

He also spends some time on the convention circuit, usually as the invited guest. His foray into Atlanta for the Farm Bureau convention was an unusual approach. Most of the time, farm-related organizations want to hear the Government's side.

One of Mr. Duncan's most powerful jobs is on the Board of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Corporation has borrowing authority of \$14.5 billion. It makes decisions about commodity transactions that greatly influence prices. Outside traders make and lose fortunes in commodity dealings. The CCC has a tremendous responsibility.

How does it feel to have this responsibility and all the others involved in being Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Stabilization?

"It gives you the feeling of wanting to be pretty doggone careful before you make a decision," Duncan says.

Any decision of his will come from a lifetime of association with farming. His agricultural education began on the family farm 4 miles north of Quitman. Now rented out, it produces cotton, tobacco, peanuts, and livestock.

After finishing at Emory, he took graduate work in agriculture at the University of Georgia. He played professional baseball for a short time, but went back to farming.

His wife is the former Branch Ellis Orr, of Macon. They and their four children—Judy, 20; John, 15; Ellis, 8, and Nancy, 5—live in a brick split-level house in Alexandria.

Mr. Duncan goes to work at 7:30 every morning and gets home after 7 every night. Often he is in his office even on weekends.

He intended to go back to being Georgia Farm Bureau president after 2 years in Washington, but it didn't work out that way. The administration wanted him to continue. He was on leave from the Farm Bureau office, and staying here meant he had to resign the post. So it won't automatically be his when he does leave the Government.

"I don't know what I'll be doing 2 years from now," he said. "If President Kennedy is reelected and the administration wants me to stay, I might do that. I might go back to the Farm Bureau; I think I could."

"Or"—he was answering a question on this point—"I might run for Congress. It's too soon to say. I didn't think 2 years ago that I'd still be here, but here I am."