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Castro's Twisted Views

If we are to believe the propaganda emanating from Cuba, everything the United States has done concerning Cuba has been villainous. On the other hand, any aid given Premier Fidel Castro by the Soviets is perfectly all right.

For example, there is no question that Castro's men fought the rebels with Russian-made MIG planes, Stalin tanks and other equipment manufactured behind the Iron Curtain. Similarly there is no doubt but that Soviet military experts aided Castro and that at least 100 Castro pilots were trained to handle jet fighter planes in Red Czechoslovakia.

But for the United States to be sympathetic to the rebels or give them aid in any way — that is unspeakable!

In a 4-hour-and-33-minute telethon Sunday, Castro made just about the wildest speech of his career. He said any U. S. attack on Cuba would mean the death knell of the United States. He sneered at U. S. leaders, calling Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., a "moron," and saying that President Kennedy reminded him of Adolf Hitler.

Castro also attacked Allen W. Dulles, whose Central Intelligence Agency has been denounced by the Castroite press as the brains behind the attack on Cuba and then made threats as follows:

"We are not afraid of the Marines. We will give them a grand reception. If they destroy us, it will mean the destruction of the Yankee empire. The day they invade us will be the day that the Yankee empire disappears from the face of the earth."

That's pretty strong language coming from a man of Castro's stature.

At the same time the reports were that Castro was expected to unleash the biggest firing-squad bloodbath in Cuba's history. Despite pleas for clemency from the presidents of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela, Castro indicated that he would deal mercilessly with 700 prisoners he said were taken in last week's fighting.

He also confirmed indirectly that there has been a mass roundup of Cubans, affecting perhaps as many as 50,000 persons. He said it was necessary to arrest "all suspicious persons," but added that those proved innocent would be released. Judging from past performances by Castro, things don't look very optimistic for anyone outside his own inner circle.

Castro's threats against the United States make one suspicious as to whether we are dealing with a madman drunk with power over promised aid from Russia. At any event, there is no call for the United States to apologize for any aid given the rebels.

If Russia aided Castro, what was wrong with the United States giving aid and sympathy to the rebels? Two can play at the same game.