



WASHINGTON REPORT

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ARE SOVIET MISSILES IN CUBA?

It is now nearly two years since the Cuban missile crisis. Once again there are persistent reports of a Soviet military buildup on Cuba, including the installation of missiles poised for a final, fateful shot at America's heart.

In place of the "firm denials" with which official Washington responded to the 1962 warnings of a missile buildup, the current reports are met with a stony wall of silence. The Department of Defense will say only that "our surveillance is continuing." When Government officials do respond -- unofficially -- it is merely to cast doubt on the reliability of the sources of the reports. These are, for the most part, Cuban refugees and exile groups which maintain contact with the underground on the island.

However, on the American Security Council's WASHINGTON REPORT OF THE AIR, which on September 28 began a series of five-day-a-week programs on more than 500 radio stations across the country, Editor Walter H. Judd points out that "It is well to remember that the first 1962 missile reports originated with these same refugee groups and were similarly pooh-poohed in Washington."

For almost two years the U. S. Government has consistently thrown cold water on reports that the Soviets never removed their strategic nuclear missiles at all. Yet only last month Fidel Castro publicly refused to comment on whether the missiles had, in fact, been shipped back to Russia. And Castro's sister Juanita, who defected last June, told a Brazilian newsmen in mid-August that: "In Cuba there are long-range ballistic missiles which are well camouflaged."

One source for the buildup reports, which Washington finds more difficult to shrug off, is the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba. This is a group of prominent Americans who are deeply concerned about the threat posed by Soviet Cuba to our national security. Among them are Dr. Edward Teller, whose vision and foresight gave America the H-Bomb over the strenuous objections of many of his fellow scientists; Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall, the noted military analyst; and Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, who was Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of the 1962 missile crisis.

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