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DEMOCRAT

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Our Readers Say

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Would Send Peace Corps To Cuba

EDITOR THE DEMOCRAT

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In refusing to be pressured into war with Cuba and Russia by congressional, journalistic, and other jingoists President Kennedy perhaps had in mind, for one thing, the fact that the United States maintains several thousand technicians in Turkey, which borders on the Soviet Union. He also realizes that in all probability if we should start something in Cuba, the Soviets would retaliate against us in West Berlin.

The San Francisco Chronicle editorialized on August 31, "To suggest that the presence in Cuba of Soviet technicians — not combat troops, but only technicians, according to the President's assurance — is somehow different from the basing of U.S. military advisers and Air Force and CIA units in Turkey is hypocritical."

The Washington Star, the more conservative of the two dailies in the nation's capital, also reminds us that "we maintain and insist upon the right to maintain military bases and forces in countries bordering the Soviet Union" and comments, "If we assert the right to do this in 1962, and we certainly have the right, it is difficult for us to see how the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 can rationally be invoked now to deny a similar right to Russia in the case of Cuba."

This is not to argue that we should ignore the communist threat in Cuba. But we should remember that all Latin America was not with us when we sponsored military intervention in that island in 1961 — the coup that failed — and that such big powers as Mexico and Brazil definitely oppose such attempts on the part of the Organization of American States or any of its members.

L. F. Stone, in his weekly of "personal journalism," knowing that war over Cuba is not the answer to the problem, makes this constructive suggestion: "It would hurt Russian interest most and help ours in Latin America if we were to reverse our Cuban

policy, send the Peace Corps there to help its people, negotiate business for sugar purchases and oil sales. We would thereby make Cuba less dependent on Moscow and demonstrate for all the world to see that our policy was not made by sugar and oil companies and that U.S. imperialism was a thing of the past."

An excellent suggestion in my opinion! I would add to it a nation-wide project of concerted prayer for the people of Cuba.

LYNDON BUREK PHOENIX