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Red Arms in Cuba

Senate Unit Orders Probe

Special to The Inquirer And Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Sen. John Stennis (D., Miss.) announced Friday that the Senate Armed Services Preparedness subcommittee would investigate reports he had received a new and powerful Russian military buildup in Cuba.

Stennis' announcement, which cast doubt on President Kennedy's statement Thursday that there is no evidence of any offensive preparations in Cuba since the October crisis, came shortly after a mysterious closed-door meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Latin America.

Senators at the meeting gave conflicting reports of what they had learned of the reported buildup from Secretary of State Dean Rusk and John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Stennis, chairman of the Pre-

paredness subcommittee, did not mention the controversy over whether the Bay of Pigs invasion force was promised, and then refused, American air support. But it was expected that this would

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be one of the subjects of the inquiry, which he said would include Cuba's military strength, the kind of weapons in Cuba, and the military threat posed by the Cuban situation.

The Senate has pending a resolution by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), calling for an inquiry by the Senate Armed Services Committee into the de-

nial by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, repeated Thursday by President Kennedy, that no air support was promised the Cuban invaders.

The controversy over the air support arises from the fact that neither the President nor the Attorney General ever denied until this week that it had been promised, although the public had been led to believe for 21 months that it had been.

The closed door meeting was called with considerable fanfare by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chairman of the subcommittee on Latin America, before the President had denied knowledge of a new buildup.

Morse invited Rusk to brief the subcommittee. When McCone heard about the invitation he came along.

Sen. George Alken (R., Vt.) emerged from the meeting and

said Russia had built an "enormously strong" military and political base in Cuba that was "much stronger" than it was six months ago.

That was before the October crisis that ended with an announcement by the Administration that Russia had removed its missiles and other offensive weapons from the island.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (Minn.), Senate Democratic whip and a Kennedy Administration spokesman, came from the meeting and said that he had heard nothing about any significant buildup.

SYMINGTON DISTURBED

Sen. Stuart Symington (D., Mo.) said he was disturbed by the Russian military complex in Cuba and that the buildup was continuing.

Morse refused to tell what Rusk and McCone had said.

The mystery of whether there is a new buildup recalled that Sen. Kenneth Keating (R., N. Y.) had warned of the buildup that brought the October crisis—and told the Senate the Administration knew about it—several days before Mr. Kennedy said he had found out about it.

WILL SEEK OAS AID

Mr. Kennedy plans to ask the Organization of American States to focus world attention on the presence of the Soviet troops in Cuba, it was disclosed.

Officials said the move would be made within the next two or three weeks.

They said it was apparent that the Russians intended to keep 6000 troops, organized in infantry combat units, in Cuba for an indefinite time. Also, they said, about 10,000 other Soviet personnel will be there for a long period of time, installing radar and communications gear with which to operate Cuba's complex of new Soviet antiaircraft missiles.

The U. S. move in the OAS, officials said, would be aimed at rallying the OAS nations in a "psychological" campaign.

This is a nice way of saying that the program calls for the OAS nations to join in a propaganda campaign, pointing a relentless finger at the Soviet presence in Cuba and shouting, "imperialists!"