

Latin Envoy Nominee Says U.S. Can't Impose Accord

By PHILIP TAUBMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 20 — President Reagan's choice to serve as special envoy to Central America, Richard B. Stone, told a Senate committee today that the United States would try to bring opposing groups in the region to the bargaining table but "cannot impose" a settlement or act as a negotiator.

Saying that he was not optimistic about the prospects for success, Mr. Stone told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the proper American role as mediator was one of "inducement, invitation and support rather than imposition or coercion."

In a 90-minute appearance before the panel that had the atmosphere of a hearing, Mr. Stone, a former Democratic senator from Florida and member of the committee, was warmly greeted by his former colleagues and told his nomination as ambassador-at-large would win quick approval by the Senate. The committee chairman, Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illi-

nois, said Mr. Stone's nomination would probably be voted on by the committee at its meeting next Tuesday.

In his testimony, Mr. Stone repeated previous warnings by the Reagan Administration that El Salvador faces a loss of United States aid if human rights abuses, particularly killings by rightist death squads, are not stopped.

Specifically, he told the committee that Salvadoran Government officials probably be voted on by the committee at its meeting next Tuesday.

Mr. Stone, in comments that he said were meant to reassure Central American nations that the United States would not try to dictate the terms of any peace agreements, stressed that gov-

ernments in the region should be encouraged to pursue negotiating initiatives already under way.

"My role is to foster and promote discussions, not to pre-empt them," Mr. Stone said. "Let's be friends and supporters rather than telling them what to do. The agenda for negotiations in Central America must be maintained by Central Americans. Efforts by the United States to be a negotiator could upset those initiatives."

To make negotiations easier, Mr. Stone said he would visit Central America soon after he is confirmed by the Senate, and he told the committee that he would be willing to meet with guerrilla leaders in El Salvador in an effort to persuade them to sit down for discussions with Government leaders.

Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, the panel's ranking Democrat, raised the only discordant note about Mr. Stone's suitability to serve as special envoy. "You're going into this job with such a hard-line image it may be

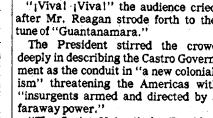
difficult for you," Mr. Pell said.

Mr. Pell did not elaborate, but an aide said later that the comment was a reference to Mr. Stone's longstanding identification with Cuban-Americans in Florida, a bastion of anti-Communism, and his work as a lobbyist for the Guatemalan Government from February 1981 to March 1983.

After the hearing Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a group that has generally opposed Reagan Administration policies in Central America, said: "It is disgraceful that this nomination didn't get close scrutiny that it deserves. The issue at stake is Stone's integrity. He says he wanted to improve Guatemala's human rights performance. Our inclination is that he was a paid agent for Latin America's worst human rights violator in order to lift the U.S. arms embargo against his client."

PRESIDENT DEFENDS HIS LATIN POLICIES

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The New York Times, George Tanas Richard B. Stone and his wife, Marlene, at hearing yesterday.

port Reagan Against the Fifth Column of Andropov in the Congress." A flatbed truck drove past the auditorium with a long dummy rocket pointed skyward and bearing a sign: "MX-Yes!"

"Viva! Viva!" the audience cried after Mr. Reagan strode forth to the tune of "Guananamera."

"The President stirred the crowd deeply by discussing the Castro Government as the conduit in 'a new colonialism' threatening the Americas with 'insurgents armed and directed by a faraway power.'"

"The Soviet Union," the President continued, "with all its military might, with its massive subsidy to the Cuban economy, can't make the system produce anything but repression and terror."

Contending that there was "strong evidence" of Cuban involvement in the illicit drug traffic that flows through Miami, Mr. Reagan demanded an accounting from the Havana Government on whether this was "officially sanctioned."

What the Critics Say
In mentioning Theodore Roosevelt's cavalryman's role in helping to win Congressional passage in 1902, President Reagan cited his use of the adage, "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Well, Mr. Reagan said, turning this remark on his Congressional opponents, "there are plenty of soft speakers around, but that's where the similarity ends."

Congressional critics say the President is exaggerating the Communist role in Central America's historic problems of poverty and instability. They are trying to limit covert military aid for Nicaragua, insurgents of the President's request for military and economic aid to shore up the Government of El Salvador. Critics contend that by portraying complicated civil wars in terms of the East-West struggle, Mr. Reagan invites an increase in the trouble.

In response, the President said there were "roadblocks in our path." He dealt with criticism that El Salvador's Government is guilty of authoritarian abuses by cautioning against being "immobilized by fear or apathy by those who suggest that because our friends are imperfect we should not help them."

"There are far too many trying to find excuses to do nothing," he said in a speech that was repeatedly interrupted by cheers and applause.

"We must realize," the President said, "our friends cannot be expected to stand unarmored against insurgents who have been armed to the teeth by the Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan axis. Any excuse for not providing our friends the weapons they need to defend themselves is a prescription for disaster."

Past and Future Support
The President chose an ideal setting for focusing pressure on Congress for his Latin America campaign. He visited La Esquina de Tejas Restaurant in the Little Havana section of Miami where Cuban refugees of the Castro revolution have built an economic and political power base. The predominantly Republican, conservative area where Cuban refugees of the Castro revolution have built an economic and political power base. The predominantly Republican, conservative area where Cuban refugees of the Castro revolution have built an economic and political power base.

Text of President Reagan's Speech on Threat to Latin America

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP) — Following is the advance text of President Reagan's speech today in Miami to an audience of Cuban-Americans as made available by the White House:

It is a great pleasure for me to be with a group of Americans who have demonstrated how much can be accomplished when people are free. Many of you arrived in this country with little more than the shirts on your backs and a desire to improve your well-being and that of your family.

You came with a willingness to work and, yes, a consuming passion for liberty. There is a name for this kind of spirit. It's called the American spirit, and there's no limit to what it can do. Examples of this spirit abound.

Jorge Mas, Chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, came here 20 years ago and worked as a milkman to support his family. Today he owns a construction company that provides hundreds of people with meaningful employment. When he's not running his company, he's immersed in activities like this one, trying to protect the freedom that's been so important in his life.

World renowned ballet dancer, Fernando Bujones, is a Cuban American. In my administration we've got Jose Manuel Casanova as the U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The list goes on and on. People from every walk of life, of every race and family background, have made their mark in just about every corner of American society. A few months ago I was honored to welcome to the White House a famous runner, Alberto Salazar. I didn't know what to say. He gave me some running shoes, but I'm not sure what kind of race he wanted me to run in.

Clearly, America has been good for you, and you have also been good for America and for Miami. Twenty-five years ago there were those who thought Miami had reached its peak and was on the way down. The economy seemed stagnant and there was little hope in sight. Today, Miami is a vibrant international center, a gateway to Latin America.

The stark contrast between your life and that of the neighbors and loved ones you left behind is the strongest evidence to the relationship between freedom and prosperity.

Contrast in Wealth
About 10 million people still live in Cuba, as compared to about a million Cuban Americans — people with the same traditions and cultural heritage, yet the Cubans in the United States, with only one-tenth the number, produce almost two times the wealth of those they left behind.

So don't let anyone fool you. What's happening in Cuba is not a failure of Fidel Castro and of Communism.

The Soviet Union, with all its military might, with its massive subsidy to the Cuban economy, can't make the system produce anything but repression and terror.

Cuban Americans understand, perhaps better than many of their fellow citizens, that freedom is not just the heritage of the people of the United States, but the birthright of the hemisphere. We, in the Americas, are descended from hearty souls, pioneers, men and women with courage to leave the familiar and start fresh in the New World. We are, by and large, people who share the same fundamental values: God, family, work, freedom, democracy and justice.



President Reagan being served a traditional Cuban meal yesterday at La Esquina de Tejas restaurant in the Little Havana section of Miami.

do the bidding of a foreign government, defiling their hands with the blood of others, not serving their own interests but propping up leaders who have no popular support.

But the people of Central America, with our support, have chosen a different course and will not tolerate Mr. Castro's efforts to prevent it. They and we want Central America for Central Americans, and that's the way it's going to be.

The declining Castro economy continues to make a grotesque joke out of the ideological claims that Marxism is for the people. Nearly a quarter century after the Cuban revolution, the Cuban people continue to face shortages and rationing of basic necessities. Once one of the most prosperous countries in Latin America, it is regressing to the status of one of the most economically backward in the region, thanks to the Communist system.

And now there is strong evidence that Castro officials are involved in the drug trade, peddling drugs like criminals, profiting on the misery of the addicted. I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Castro regime for an accounting. Is this drug peddling simply the act of renegade officials, or is it officially sanctioned? The world deserves an answer.

Cuban Independence Day
On this day we celebrate Cuban independence, something special for the people of the United States as well as Cuba.

Eighty-five years ago we joined together and fought side by side, shedding our blood to free Cuba from the yoke of colonialism. Sadly, we must acknowledge that Cuba is no longer independent. But let me assure you, we will not let this same fate befall others in the hemisphere, we will not permit the Soviets and their henchmen in Havana to deprive others of their freedom, and someday Cuba itself will be free.

The United States stands at a crossroads. We can no longer ignore this hemisphere and simply hope for the best.

in recent years, for example, didn't even know that Cuba had tens of thousands of troops in Africa, much less know about casualties they've suffered. The greatest threat to dictators like Fidel Castro is the truth. That is why I am urging the Congress to approve legislation for the establishment of Radio Marti.

And let me state one thing for the record: When visiting the campuses of our domestic radio stations should we broadcast to Cuba. Such threats are evidence of the frightened and tyrannical nature of Castro's regime.

I can guarantee this: In the way, we will never permit such a government to intimidate us from speaking the truth.

Cuban Americans play a unique role in the preservation of our freedom. Your Hispanic heritage enables you to better relate our good will to our friends in neighboring countries to the south.

I think one of our most dangerous problems in America is that many of our own people take our blessed liberty for granted.

In 1989, a Cuban scholar named Herberto Padilla came to the United States after spending 20 years under Castro. He marveled at what he saw, something that he hadn't even noticed during his visit here 40 years before.

When visiting the campuses of our major universities here in America, I'm struck by something that will be obvious to an agent of repression. No one, government official or colleague, had told me what I was going to say in the seminars and courses that I am going to give this fall. This is not for me. Simple, but true. It is difficult to ask anyone born into freedom to realize exactly what she or he possesses.

What Freedom Is
Mr. Padilla went on to explain that freedom is invisible, it is the absence of the Government censor, the absence of the secret police, the absence of an agent of repression.

Perhaps the best gift you can give to your fellow citizens, and you've already contributed so much to our well-being, is a better understanding of that which they cannot see, the human freedom that surrounds them.

Perhaps you can help them understand, something you know instinctively, the awesome responsibility we have as Americans. For if we fail there will be no place for free men to seek refuge.

I'm counting on you to help me explain the threats in Central America, threats you recognize so clearly. Each generation of Americans bears this burden.

And we are grateful to have you with us, sharing this heavy weight upon your shoulders. Teddy Roosevelt said it best alongside your forefathers for Cuban independence said, "We here in America, hold in our hands the hope of the world, the fate of the coming years; and shame and disgrace will be ours if in our eyes the light of high resolve is dimmed, if we trail in the dust the golden hopes of men."

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Support for Radio Marti
The Cuban people, as is the case in most Communist dictatorships, have been cut off from information. Many of the folks who have come to America

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The editorial also said Goebbels, if he would have heard the President's recent statements on Central America, would have said, "Master, I bow before you."

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