AMERICA WAKE UP, No. 112

CUBAN CUMMUNISM AND THE UNITED STATES

ANNOUNCER: AMERICA WAKE UP, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, State of Illinois, presents Phyllis Schlafly:

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY: Recently it was my privilege to hear a most remarkable speech entitled "Cuban Communism and the United States" given by a distinguished educator and former university president, the Reverend John J. Kelly. Because this speech is of tremendous importance to all Americans, I want to share parts of it with the listeners of AMERICA WAKEUP. Here are the exact words of the Reverend John J. Kelly, a man who knows Communism from first-hand experience because he was president of Villanueva University in Havana at the time when Castro came to power in Cuba.

The most formidable obstacle we face today is that Americans are convinced IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE.

In every country which Communism has taken over, this same attitude prevailed, in the face of the same old tactics: deceit and force. In Cuba after a few weeks of Castro's regime, I remember some really intelligent observers reasoned this way: "We are a highly individualistic people. Communism demands conformity and regimentation, just the opposite to our nature. It just won't work in Cuba. We should let Communism take over, and then watch it fail miserably." After 6 years, and many firing squads, prisons and tortures, it is still working in Cuba, and I know exactly what these same fine friends of mine think. "Why couldn't we foresee this and defeat it?"

Most Americans feel that Communism is no danger because we have the greatest military force in the world. That kind of thinking completely ignores the fact that most Communist countries were taken from within, and not from without by military force. To all the people

who say it can't happen here, I say that not only it can happen, but that there are indications that it is happening here.

A second psychological obstacle results from propaganda of a pro-Soviet type: we just don't believe that there are traitors in America, even in the face of evidence to the contrary. Much of our present government policy is based on this schizophremic position. This attitude of unwarranted confidence was aptly illustrated by one of my best friends, a Cuban professional with three engineering degrees: "We don't worry about Communism in Fidel's 26th of July Movement. We don't worry about Communism at all, because we are in a favored geographic position: we are only 90 knots from Uncle Sam, at his very doorstep, and Uncle Sam won't let them do anything to Cuba." Well, tragically, Uncle Sam did let them, and is letting them, not only in Cuba, but in many other parts of the world.

Our own attitude as a nation is much like his: in the face of contrary evidence, we feel that Uncle Sam will take care of things, and we don't have to worry as individuals. Contrary to all evidence, we don't want to believe that a conspiracy, world-wide, is intent on destroying us. The thought is repellent -- so we don't think about it. I wonder how many of us have thought of even more unpleasant things: the slavery, the prisons, the torture mental and physical, and the firing squads of Communist regimes?

Another attitude is: "Why get excited about a few thousand Communists in this country; we are a strong nation of over 190 million people." We ignore the lesson, so simple and so homely, of the iceberg. Apathy and indifference, and more than anything else, a lack of knowledge and facts about the enemy, have lost whole nations to the Communists. If I were to guess, I would say that one conspirator or useful dupe out of every 500 people, is more than sufficient to turn

the trick; it has done so in every country that today is behind the Iron Curtain, or the Sugar Curtain.

This exact fate befell the Cubans. Cuba fell from within, deeply deluded and deceived by the glowing promises of a perfidious Castro and infiltrated-July 26 Movement.

There were some misgivings about Castro, who had a very bad record as an incorrigible juvenile delinquent, a young university tough involved in assassinations, and an amateur-type revolutionary engaged in many disturbances about the Caribbean. These misgivings were dispelled by Castro, in his frequent broadcasts over secret radio transmissions, from his mountaintop, and his hideouts: "We are not a Communist group, the government accuses us of that to get your support; we are Cubans, who hate Batista more than you do, and want to get him out and restore free elections, honesty and the Constitution to our nation. You must help the revolution." And they did!

Castro's subversive propaganda went out to all sectors of Cuba. The Military were urged: "Don't fight, don't accept orders from your corrupt officers. Join us to liberate Cuba; you will maintain rank and pay." There were many defections, whole garrisons at a time.

Students were easily deceived, identifying themselves with Castro, a student leader himself. State universities of all Latin America are breeding grounds for political and social agitation, and academic freedom is abused for political purposes.

The politicians were promised help in free elections of the new Castro regime. Most accepted; those who refused were threatened with penalties or assassination.

The Church in Cuba, especially lay groups, were led to believe that Castro would put into practice the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Frequent requests from the rebels for religious articles and chaplains allayed suspicions. The Church tried, several times, during the revolt to bring about a government which would exclude both Batista and Castro. Why these attempts were unsuccessful is best described by Ambassador Earl Smith, in his book, THE FOURTH FLOOR.

Businessmen, aloof from politics, considered the Castro revolution a sordid dirty mess. But the businessmen were intent on making money. Many paid Castro taxes as well as the regular contributions to the Cuban Government. They were shortsighted; they lost everything.

The workers and farmers were the only group where Castro's program failed. Unions and farmers ignored Castro, refused to cooperate, and yet ironically Castro claims that these were the backbone of his movement.

Castro found complete acceptance among the middle classes, professionals, students, and much of the monied classes for his Socialist revolution, which they thought was just another political revolution so frequent in Latin America. Even so the ultimate push which overthrew the government of Cuba was administered by some members of the U.S. State Department, when in December 1958 (still time for our government to do something about Castro), Ambassador Smith was instructed to inform Batista that the U.S. would not support a Batista-backed government in Cuba. Batista fled, and Cuba was enslaved in a violent, bloody Socialist revolution.

Here is an eye-witness account of some of the things I saw in the first few months of a Communist takeover:

While Fidel Castro made his triumphal journey from Santiago to Havana, in the first few days of January 1959, a general strike was called to paralyze everything and prevent opponents from using com-

munications and transportation. Duly constituted authority was systematically eliminated. The armed forces, from generals to privates, were accused of "collaboration with the tyranny of Batista" or of "war crimes". The entire police force was charged with "brutality, repression, torture and collaboration." All were threatened with the death penalty at drum-head military courts, so the army barracks and the police stations were abruptly abandoned. Arms were discarded, uniforms burned on a wholesale scale.

The barbudos of Castro secured the abandoned police stations and military posts, while Boy Scouts directed traffic. Militiamen swarmed over the police and military establishments. They were mostly eager youths, amateurs seeking a foothold in the echelons of the "new Cuba".

The breakdown of authority meant that no organized or effective police or military action was possible; there was no one in authority to whom a person might appeal against unjust charges or to guarantee his rights. There was "one man revolutionary law." The hand-picked President and his Cabinet post factum approved new laws made haphazardly by Castro in his speeches on TV or elsewhere.

The Cuban Bureau for Investigating Communist Activities was rapidly dismantled. It was whispered around Havana that "Che" Guevara, commander of La Cabaña fortress, upon arrival in the first few days of January, made his first confiscation -- all the offices, archives and records of this anti-Communist agency -- and moved them to the Fortress for "safe keeping". The three top officials mysteriously disappeared. No one used the word "purge", but it was the only word that seemed to fit.

The Cuban Courts became practically functionless. Most matters were put into the hands of the drum-head military tribunals, usually

a three-member ad hoc panel, in which the defense of the accused was nil, or useless at best. Hundreds of Cubans were rapidly purged as "war criminals, collaborators, informers, or counterrevolutionaries" by the youthful judges, often illiterate juveniles, swelled with the importance of their so-called victory, and all too eager to listen to any accusation against the prisoner. To substitute for legal procedure, Castro proclaimed that "war criminals" must be sentenced to death by "moral conviction because legal proof is impossible to obtain." Sentencing was swift; execution often swifter.

All communications began to serve the new regime, and the way was cleared for mesmerizing and brainwashing the people. Interminable speeches were delivered by Castro on TV and radio; everyone hung breathlessly on every word; the "Liberator" was speaking and he was the Law! The Ministry of Public Education moved drastically against private education in the very first days of January.

In this beautiful tropical island where everyone gets along rather well with each other normally, there was hardly any evidence of antagonistic racial discrimination. Fidel, Raul, and el Che artifically invented discrimination, and fomented divisions of society by stimulating various fronts with artificial or imagined goals of eliminating racial discrimination, which never existed in Cuba.

Under the pretext of reclaiming government lands which allegedly had been appropriated by unscrupulous officials and politicians, the regime began the universal, rough-shod, unjust expropriation of lands of any considerable size, regardless of how acquired, or regardless of the owner. Safety deposit boxes in the banks were sealed officially for later confiscation, and all checking accounts were limited to small withdrawals. This wholesale robbery was carried along through the Ministry for the Recovery of Stolen Goods, under the promise of "re-

turning ill-gotten goods to the people."

Foreign policy experts have repeatedly characterized Cuba as a military threat, and a center for subverting South America. Since then it seems that the policy is: see no Cuba, hear no Cuba, speak no Cuba. Why? I wish I knew the answer ... because the fate of the U.S. depends on Cuba. If Cuba is permitted to remain Communist, that ultimately will be our fate. Four hundred years ago, a Spanish monarch said: "He who owns Cuba, the Island of Cuba, has the key to the New World."

You have just heard highlights of a great speech by the Reverend John J. Kelly, former president of Villanueva University in Cuba.

ANNOUNCER: Some people have the mistaken idea that the Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization made up exclusively of elderly women. Contrary to this, the DAR has a large and increasing percentage of members between the ages of 18 and 35. These Junior members are enthusiastically participating in all phases of DAR patriotic, educational and historical work, and hold responsible offices in the Society. One special project of the DAR Juniors is the Helen Pouch Memorial Scholarship Fund. DAR Juniors zestfully carry out such activities as bazaars, stationery sales, benefit style shows and card parties to raise thousands of dollars each year to provide scholarships for deserving students. At every DAR state and national conference, dozens of Junior members, dressed in white, serve as Pages and are responsible for the smooth, dignified and efficient functioning of the meetings. DAR Junior are young American women who have already assumed their responsibilities as patriotic leaders in the communities, at the same time that they are busy wives and mothers.

Listen in again next week at this same time for another in the series of programs called AMERICA WAKE UP.