AMERICA WAKE UP, Broadcast No. 48

REVIEW OF "RED STAR OVER CUBA"

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

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Those who do not learn the lessons of history are compelled to repeat its mistakes. The truth of this maxim was never more forcefully illustrated than by RED STAR OVER CUBA, a recent book written by Nathaniel Weyl. Here is the bitter lesson of how the Communists conquered Cuba with the very same tactics they used so successfully to enslave China 12 years earlier. Here is the case history of the Communist takeover of a neighboring country. The author, Nathaniel Weyl, is a man who knows Cuba, the Communist conspiracy, and the Spanish language.

RED STAR OVER CUBA reads like a detective story. The author documents all his charges, and reaches the conclusion that "we were hoodwinked about Cuba by naive sentimentalists, deluded liberals and philo-communists." The Honorable Spruille Braden, a former Ambassador to Cuba and one of the most distinguished American diplomats, recommended RED STAR OVER CUBA in these words: "This book should be made compulsory reading for every high official in all of the American Republics, the Organization of American States, and the U.N. It could only have been written by a man who is familiar with Latin-America, Cuba, and the Spanish language, and above all, possessing an intimate knowledge of the Communist conspiracy. Mr. Weyl has done an outstanding and patriotic job. I pray that RED STAR OVER CUBA will have the widest possible circulation in order to alert the U.S. public to the gravest threat there has ever been to the security of our country and the hemisphere."

In fascinating detail, Weyl gives the documented record which proves

that, ever since 1948, Castro has been "not merely an implacable enemy of the United States, but a trusted Soviet agent as well." Weyl traces Castro's consistent service to the Kremlin through the murders in which he was implicated while a student at Havana University, the Bogota riot of 1948, his armed insurrection on the 26th of July for which he served only 22 months in prison, and how he trained his Red cadres in Mexico under the political protection of ex-president Lazaro Cardenas, who was appropriately rewarded with a Stalin peace prize.

Most Americans know by now that our Government made a tragic mistake in recognizing Castro. But most Americans do not yet know how Castro was helped to power by the press and our State Department in precisely the same way that the Communists were helped to take over China. Castro was an unknown guerrilla when Herbert L. Matthews of the NEW YORK TIMES, by a subterfuge, got our Ambassador to secure Batista's permission for a trip to the Sierra Maestra to interview Castro. Matthews' articles, published in early 1957 in the NEW YORK TIMES, were not reporting, but propaganda of the same type that Matthews became skilled at during the Spanish Civil War. Because Castro was a bearded lawyer, Matthews likened him to Abraham Lincoln, and solemnly assured the world that there was no Communism in the Castro movement. He inflated Castro to world recognition, and started the flood of arms, soldiers of fortune, and unlimited supplies of money which were Castro's secret weapon.

Weyl shows how nearly the entire United States press followed Matthews' lead in painting Castro as a Cuban Robin Hood and "agrarian reformer." Edward R. Murrow of CBS staged a laudatory TV network program, and Ed Sullivan went into the Sierra Maestra to lob friendly questions over the plate for Castro and even call Castro the "George Washington of Cuba."

Our Ambassador to Cuba, Arthur Gardner, tried desperately to alert the State Department to the fact that "Castro talked and acted like a Communist, and should not be supported by the United States." His thanks for this patriotic warning was removal from his post and the smear treatment from leftwing columnists. He was replaced by Earl E. T. Smith, who was sent to Herbert L. Matthews to be "briefed" for his Cuban assignment, and then ordered to tell Batista that the United States wanted him to step down. State Department bias toward Castro was made clear to Batista when we reneged on a promise to deliver 15 training planes bought and paid for by Batista. Weyl shows how our ambassadors to Cuba were ignored and overruled by two members of the "middle echelon" in the State Department named Roy Rubottom and William Wieland.

RED STAR OVER CUBA has many lessons for Americans, in addition to the principal lesson of how easily we were hoodwinked by Communist propagandists in our channels of communications. One of the common fallacies about Communism is that it originates with the poor and uneducated. Weyl shows that Cuba ranked as one of the highest of Latin American countries in per capita income, and that the Communist Party of Cuba was organized in the 1920's by a group of intellectuals at Havana University. Fidel and Raul Castro, heirs to a half-million dollar estate, got their training and recruited their followers among the student intellectuals at Havana University.

Weyl does a good job of describing many of the typical Communist tactics used by Castro, such as his use of the liberals and politically innocent as martyrs, and the sordid injustice of the so-called "agrarian reform." One wishes that he had told more of these, such as Castro's systematic and prompt confiscation of all the anti-Communist records in Cuba, and his use of medals, rosaries and other religious articles to deceive Catholics into supporting him.

Another lesson for Americans brought out in RED STAR OVER CUBA is well summed up by former Ambassador to Cuba Spruille Braden, who said: "The tragedy of our State Department, andof our American foreign relations in general, is that we do not learn by experience. When the Communists began taking over in China, some so-called 'thinkers' -- I prefer to call them 'unidentifiable THEYS' -- in the State Department stoutly asserted that this wasn't really Communism, but agrarian reform. They argued it was a form of democracy, preferable to what Chiang Kai-shek offered the Chinese people, and involved no danger to us. Time, they averred, was on our side. We mistakenly thought time had been on our side when the Bolsheviks took over Russia..."

Ambassador Braden's conclusion was shared by Senators James O. Eastland and Thomas J. Dodd who jointly released this statement to the press summarizing the testimony of two former U.S. Ambassadors to Cuba, Arthur Gardner and Earl Smith: "Cuba was handed to Castro and the Communists by a combination of Americans in the same way that China was handed to the Communists. The testimony of both these gentlemen demonstrates that American foreign policy is not made in the offices of Secretary Herter on the fifth floor of the State Department. It is made on the fourth floor, by the unknown policy planners and memo makers who fill the Secretary's 'in' basket." According to Messrs. Smith and Gardner, Fidel Castro was the hero of the In-Basket Brigade. They worked with pro-Castro elements in the American press to make Castro appear as Robin Hood. They misguided American opinion in exactly the same way the In-Basket Brigade of 1945 misguided American opinion with the myth that the Chinese Communists were 'agrarian reformers'.

A Communist dictatorship controlled by Moscow and Peiping and only 90 miles off the coast of Florida constitutes a clear and present danger to all the Americas. Not only does it provide aSoviet missile

and rocket base, but it is a training center for infiltration and propaganda for all of Latin America. CIA director John McCone admitted that from 1,000 to 1,500 youths from all over Latin America went to Cuba last year for subversive training. A questionnaire is given to these youngsters when they arrive in Cuba for training. The youths to be trained as subversives and guerrillas are asked to supply detailed information about how the borders of their countries are guarded -- presumably to enable Castro's forces to violate those borders whenever necessary. The young people are asked to report where military planes are stationed, how airports are fortified, and names of border guards they personally know who will allow their return unchecked into these countries. Documents found on the bodies of six Cubans killed in an air crash near Lima, Peru last November 27 offer additional evidence of subversion and aggression against the people of South America.

Thus the actual fighting forces of the conspiracy are making ready for the physical takeover of "Cuba's 19 sister Latin American republics", just as Castro prepared and executed his takeover of Cuba. Other groundwork must be completed, however, before this can be accomplished. The people of Latin America must be conditioned to think of Castro's Red island as their guiding star. This is where Communist propaganda plays its big role.

While high U.S. Government officials pronounce Cuba as a "showcase" of Communist failure, and while knowledgeable Americans know it can succeed only by force and oppression, the masses of South America are deluged with Communist propaganda which paints a different picture. In order to influence these masses to initiate a Cuba-style revolution, the Communist press daily cries out a new propaganda slogan: Cuba is "the Isle of Freedom". This slogan, coupled with revolutionary guer-

rilla warfare, and strengthened by U.S. hesitation to do anything about the tiny Red empire in the Caribbean, may persuade the typical citizen of Argentina or Brazil to believe Communist Cuba is a real "Isle of Freedom."

In addition to propaganda about the "Isle of Freedom", the Communists are sending guerrillas and agitators throughout South America. They do it with full certainty that the U.S. will not actively interfere with this subversion for fear of adverse "public opinion". Indeed, the Communist WORLD MARXIST REVIEW points out: "The Soviet Union's flexible policy -- a policy which did not rule out compromise -- forestalled the armed invasion of Cuba, created a measure of certainty that new armed attacks would not be made, and thereby helped safeguard the independence of Socialist Cuba."

Cuba has become the Isle of LOST Freedom and is clearly a malignant threat to all the Americas. But maybe Castro is a blessing in disguise. If enough Americans will read RED STAR OVER CUBA and realize that "it can happen here", we can defend ourselves from international Communism while there is still time.

ANNOUNCER: The DAR MAGAZINE is the official publication of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. First published in 1892, it has through the years maintained the highest standards of literary excellence and of providing information useful to all Americans working toward patriotic, educational and historic objectives. Every month's issue contains articles on various aspects of our rich American heritage, on little known facts of American history, a fund of genealogical research material, patriotic lessons in National Defense, and even up-to-date information on motion pictures. You are cordially invited to subscribe to the DAR MAGAZINE by sending $2.00 to the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1776 D Street, N.W.

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