AMERICA WAKE UP, Broadcast No. 15

INTERVIEW WITH JOSE NORMAN

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

MRS. SCHLAFLY: It is a great pleasure to present to the listeners of the AMERICA WAKE UP a guest speaker named Jose Norman. Mr. Norman is an Englishman who lived in Cuba eleven years, so he has had first had experience with Castro. Mr. Norman, will you tell us something about your experience with Castro?

MR. NORMAN: Yes, I certainly will. By the way, I am married to a Cuban who is the granddaughter to General Garcia of the MESSAGE TO GARCIA fame. He fought in those very same hills for the true liberty of Cuba that Castro fought in. I was a close neighbor of Castro's, living in the Sierra Maestra Mountains, about fifteen miles from his hideout headquarters. During the revolution, the Communist section of his rebels indulged in anarchy, vandalism, incendiarism, (burning our plantation 6 months before Castro came into power), shot my boxer dog at pointblank range in the head after tying him to a post. They tortured two Cuban peasants and, in this particular zone, there was quite a reign of anarchy, of stealing, of looting and of everything. One important thing that I would like to put across is that at this particular time Castro was being lauded in the United States.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: I was going to say that at the time Castro was in the Sierra Maestra Mountains, one of our television men went into the mountains and interviewed him very sympathetically and ended up by calling him the George Washington of Cuba. Did you have any illusions about Castro in those days?

MR. NORMAN: No. As a matter of fact, this calling him the "George Washington of Cuba" has been quite a bone of contention with me. Whilst he was being called that, I was watching the anarchy he was doing all over the mountains, so you can imagine my feelings.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: You are convinced then, as he told us about a year ago, that Castro has been Communist since his early days?

MR. NORMAN: Castro told some of my peasants in the mountains before he ever came into power that they were Communists. But for me to try to get that over to the public before he admitted it about 1½ years ago was well nigh impossible.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Yes. The myth was fostered that he betrayed the revolution.

MR. NORMAN: That's right, he did.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: But it seems to me that the myth of the betrayed revolution was to protect the integrity of the people who were telling us he was a great guy in the early days.

MR. NORMAN: Well, that may be so, but he knew what he was doing from the very beginning. The people who were betrayed were the idealist rebels who fought with him for an ideal which he had been promising, but which he had no idea of keeping.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: He treated them as badly as he did the anti-Castro people?

MR. NORMAN: Yes, indeed. As a matter of fact, immediately after the revolution, the very idealists started filling the jails, and the very anarchists and bandits who had burned and confiscated the land were rewarded for their acts of banditry by getting posts in the agrarian reform. I knew them personally; I knew who they were. And also, their Communist affiliation papers had been discovered hidden under a rock

on my mother-in-law's plantation many years previously, so we knew who we were fighting.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: How much importance do you ascribe to the moral support given to Castro before he took power in these early days? He got shipments of weapons from our country and strong support from our State Department.

MR. NORMAN: I couldn't tell you much about the strong support then from the State Department because I was not aware of it, but there is one thing I would like to point out that from the Sierra Maestra Mountains, I never saw these arms that have been talked about so much. They had, in many cases, sawed-off shotguns and little pistols they had collected from various plantation owners or from Batista soldiers that they caught in little skirmishes; but I never saw that huge amount of arms. But I do know that they were getting millions of dollars from some source, because the high command told me about this.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Why yes. A little bandit like Castro has to have some outside resources in order to do the job. He couldn't have done it alone.

MR. NORMAN: Exactly. And, of course, he had the support of the pro-Castro underground movement who were all over the island of Cuba. In fact, they were the ones who did more to support him than any of the peasants in the mountains. For the first year or two of the revolution, the peasants had never heard of him; they never heard of Batista; they didn't know what a president was; they had never heard of God. It is very important to point these facts out, because they really had no interest in the revolution, as a revolution per se, but in the second year of the two-year revolution, when the Communist rebels joined the Castro rebels, that was the start of the wholesale anarchy all over

the mountains. When the revolution was over, Castro kept an Iron Curtain on what had been going on because the Sierra Maestra Mountains were separated from the rest of Cuba. It was almost inaccessible to go there, and only by a trick of fate I happened to live there, so I saw what I saw. And when I protested about it soon after Castro came to power in Havana 60 miles away on television, they closed the studio down ten minutes afterwards.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Did Castro loot your plantation?

MR. NORMAN: Oh yes. They looted my plantation, burned my nine buildings to the ground.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: This was agrarian reform?

MR. NORMAN: No, no, no! Agrarian reform happened the year afterwards. This was pure banditry, it was still revolution. Of course, many of the Fair Play For Cuba say that the Normans were annoyed because the agrarian reform took his property. The agrarian reform was not even in existence. Mind you, it was all planned by Castro. The agrarian reform was very largely confiscation of land by pistol-point. I know many, many people who had their land taken this way. But the intellectuals here, you know the younger students, they have no idea of what is really going on in Cuba. They sort-of think in terms of philosophy and phraseology, whereas it is pure gangsterism, deceit and murder.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, coming down to the present time. Do you think the Soviet missiles are still in Cuba?

MR. NORMAN: I certainly do! I issued a map three weeks ago in the HERALD EXAMINER of Los Angeles showing where these missiles are and showing the caves and the places where the caves had been prepared a long time before that had all been mapped and filmed by one of the chiefs of the agrarian reform, and these missiles have been reported by Cubans who have never been wrong in the past, where they are, the

amount of them and that they are still in Cuba. And, if half of what they say is true, the United States is faced this moment with a terrible dangerous missile threat in Cuba.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: I heard that there are many natural caves in Cuba that make perfect hiding places for missiles.

MR. NORMAN: Oh yes, and they have also been reinforced by tunnels which had been made and other tunnels reinforced to help communicate from one cave to another. Some of these caves and tunnels are actually under the air bases and missile bases that were spotted from the air. So the American planes spotted the airbases but they couldn't see what was going on underneath.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: I have read the exchange of correspondence between President Kennedy and Khrushchev and what it all boils down to in one sentence is that President Kennedy agreed that the U.S. would guarantee Castro against any invasion, in return for the Soviet promise to remove the missile bases.

MR. NORMAN: Yes. In that case, first of all, many Cubans feel that the missiles have not been removed, but even if they have, there are plenty there. But such a promise, or such a guarantee, will mean that now a Communist country is guaranteed in Latin America by the United States government, and that means that they will be able to further disseminate Communist propaganda all over Latin America. As a matter of fact, soon after they thought they had this guarantee, you probably will remember that a sixth of the oil fields were knocked out in Venezuela by the Castro agitators, who never had it so good. I personally think it was a defeat for the United States, I am sorry to say.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, many Americans feel the same way. There is no reason why we should guarantee Castro against any invasion. This guar-

antee was understood by Khrushchev to include invasion by any other country. Suppose they wanted to capture Cuba from Costa Rica, apparently our country will stop it.

MR. NORMAN: I am of the opinion, I always have been and I have been saying this for two years, (the warning, by the way, about these missile bases was two years) I think the only way we can get rid of Castro and his regime is for the Americans to go straight into Cuba and wipe them out. I feel they could clean it up and that seems to be the only way, in my opinion.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, the United States went to war once before to free Cuba, in 1898, to get rid of the Spanish control, which surely was very benign compared to what the Cubans have today under Castro.

MR. NORMAN: Yes, it is truely a terrible thing. The country today is a land of terror and poverty.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Is it not also true that the economic failure of Communism shows itself in the shortages and rationing, shortages of all kinds that the Cubans did not know before?

MR. NORMAN: Definitely. Few Americans knew that this started three years ago. The food shortage started then; you did not read about it over here, but I was there, I knew. My wife, being a housewife, knew when she tried to buy things in the store and this started three years ago.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: When did you leave Cuba?

MR. NORMAN: We left Cuba about two years ago.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: So you were there when Castro took over?

MR. NORMAN: I was there actually two years under the Castro regime. And I gave reports of the Communist activity to the press and to the American Embassy of what was going on whilst I was there.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Yes. You are lucky to be out now, I suppose.

MR. NORMAN: Yes, I am.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, I suppose that many Americans believe that we can only recapture Cuba from the Communists by an invasion. Is there a record anywhere of people overthrowing Communism by an internal revolution?

MR. NORMAN: No.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: They must have outside support?

MR. NORMAN: Yes, They can't do it. They are faced with too formidable police force over the country. It would be throwing themselves in front of tanks. I don't believe they would have a chance. But if they knew the United States were coming over, or if even the Latin American states were going over, there would be a revolt and 90% of the people, I am sure, would immediately rise. And, I am also certain that even the very army that Castro pays so well to keep them would be the very first to shoot him in the back.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: That is the history of the Soviet troops.

MR. NORMAN: It is? Well, history would be repeated in that case, I am sure.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: What do you think of the United States paying this enormous blackmail to Castro to get the Freedom Fighters out?

MR. NORMAN: Well, I don't really like to talk about it. It puts me a little on the spot because I am a guest in your country. I am a refugee. I must say, though, that I am pleased to see that those valiant heroes who were in my opinion the vanguard of the army that tried to wipe out Communism in Cuba but failed -- I am very glad to see them over here. I am pleased that the money was paid to get them over, BUT I am not pleased at the blackmail way this had to be done.

I think that this shows Castro up more than ever for the type of man he is.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, he started out with $1,000 a head and ended up by getting $10,000 a head.

MR. NORMAN: Well, that is his type of character. That is the sort of thing he did in Cuba. I think it is a shocking disgraceful thing.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Do you think our government betrayed them when they made their invasion in the Bay of Pigs?

MR. NORMAN: Well, I wouldn't like to say ---

MRS. SCHLAFLY: I saw a letter from a father who had two sons in that invasion. They were graduates of Culver Military Academy, and he let them go with the assurance that the United States was behind them. It was a very bitter letter. Was it not true that it was the cream of the Cuban refugees that went into that invasion?

MR. NORMAN: Yes. Many of the Cubans themselves said that they were betrayed because they were expecting this help. My brother-in-law was one of the leaders of the underground there and they were expecting to hear that the invasion was started. Everything was ready for a big revolt. The only one who seem to have known the exact date of the invasion was Castro.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, that again is our experience with other countries. In China, the Communists knew ahead of time what the movements of Mac Arthur and the forces in Korea were going to be. It has been a great pleasure to have you on this program today. Do you maintain contacts with the underground in Cuba?

MR. NORMAN: Oh yes.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Is there much of an underground in Cuba today?

MR. NORMAN: Oh yes. Practically the whole country is underground to

day. That doesn't mean to say that they are in little cells and caves plotting this and plotting that. You get many of those who are actively underground; those who are underground in thought and those who will join as soon as there is a big push. They are all plotting. The whole thing is sad, the whole thing is pathetic. When I feel that they can be helped immediately, I keep repeating this over and over again, if the United States went over there we would have no problems. We would not only be releasing Cuba but we would be releasing the danger of the missile threat to the United States.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Is it not true that every week Cuba is feeding revolutionaries and student agitators and Spanish-speaking Communists all throughout Latin America?

MR. NORMAN: Oh yes, I am sure of that. The Spanish-speaking Communists started about the time of the invasion. Lots of them were going all over Latin America.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: Well, you would say that the underground could do nothing by itself, but given the great opportunity, they would be with us?

MR. NORMAN: Oh boy, I say.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: It has been a great pleasure to have you with us on AMERICA WAKE UP. Thank you so much for coming, Mr. Jose Norman.

MR. NORMAN: Thank you so much for inviting me.

ANNOUNCER: The Daughters of the American Revolution have many activities and projects to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence. Among these are the location of the graves of Revolutionary soldiers, and, after verification of the record, the placing on each grave of an historic marker made of bronze. Usually this is done with a special ceremony conducted by the local DAR

chapter and honoring descendants of the Revolutionary soldier whose grave is being marked. One might think that all graves would be located by now; but each year the annual DAR report to the Smithsonian Institution shows that many new graves have just been discovered and marked by the DAR with monuments of permanent beauty and historic value. Each time a grave-marking ceremony is held, it provides a lesson to the local community of the selfless courage and patriotism of our Revolutionary ancestors who gave us our great inheritance of American liberty.

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

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