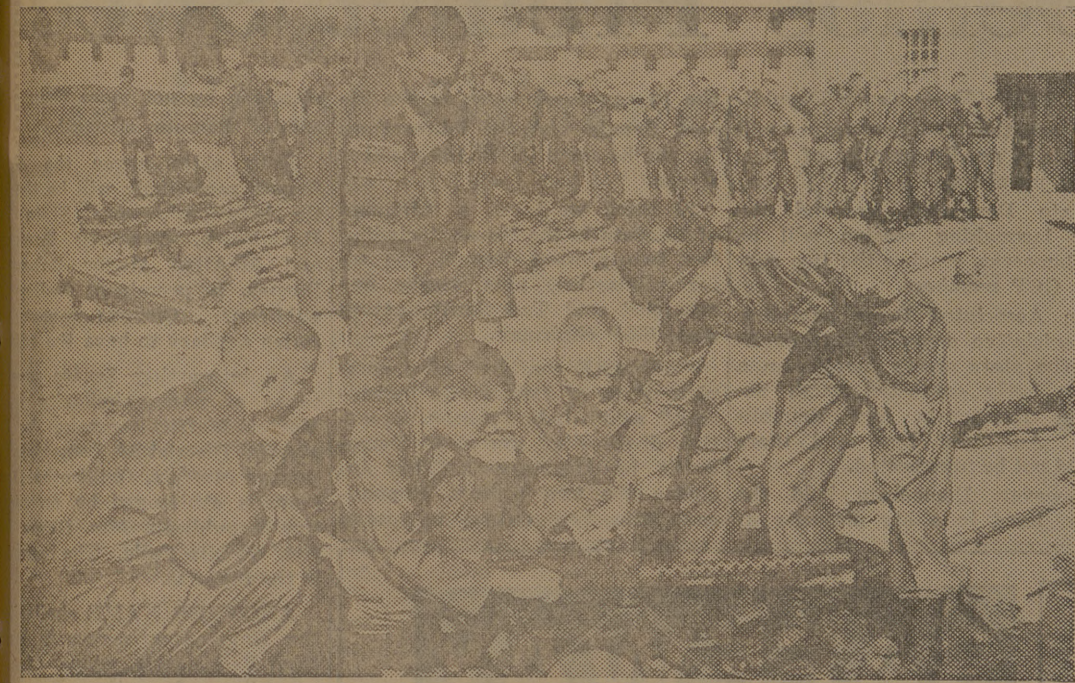


# Here's The How And Why Of The Cuban Crisis



CUBAN RECRUITS ... receiving first U. S. Army training

## Action Places Reds On Defense

By J. M. ROBERTS  
Associated Press News Analyst

The fundamental background of the international situation still remains political despite the widespread military maneuvering.

Soviet military activity in Cuba appears more than anything else to have been an effort to test the expressed determination of the United States to resist Communist encroachment. It was also designed to encourage local Communists throughout Latin America in their opposition to inter-American cooperation.

AS HAS HAPPENED so often in the 15 years since the Soviet coup in Czechoslovakia, the Communists carried things too far. The result has been a mobilization of anti-Communist sentiment throughout the world, and especially among the Western European powers and the American states where unity of action has not kept pace with unity of purpose.

And they have produced a momentous turn in United States policy, with an open recognition that, as one Spanish source put it, "it was time for the United States to stop backing away."

The new American policy of holding the Soviet Union responsible, to the point of full and direct retaliation for any encroachment on non-Communist countries anywhere, serves to hearten those who wanted to resist. Many of them have been hesitant to do so openly. This is particularly true of Latin America where political leaders have been inclined to temporize with Communist sentiment.

THE BIG TEST of the new policy — which is really a return to an old policy — is whether the United States will act as positively with regard to Berlin, India, and all the other points of possible explosion.

The Soviet Union now is in desperate need of a substitute crisis to distract attention from what is, unless she may be incredibly willing to go to war about it, a serious defeat in Cuba.

She is almost forced to sign the unilateral treaty with the East German puppets, which she has been threatening for four years, in order to save face.

BUT SHE CAN hardly permit

the East German regime to step into the Fidel Castro role unless she is willing to risk another choice between political defeat and outright war.

With regard to India, Soviet Premier Khrushchev already has expressed a desire for a settlement which will let him off the hook of choosing sides.

If he chooses Red China he will be forced to delay his efforts to bring Peiping back to the side of his major "coexistence" policy. And he would open the door to a flow of American and British military support to India, which he has been busily wooing.

He cannot, for the sake of even a surface cohesion in the Communist movement, choose India.

## Rise In Respect For U. S. Seen In Cuban Showdown

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The United States appears to have electrified Latin America and to have moved overnight to a position of leadership in the Western Hemisphere with its bold show-down challenge to the Soviet Union.

Latin leaders are taking a new and appreciative look at Washington.

If the United States wins its gamble to halt the Soviet weapons buildup in Cuba, these sources say, it will be in a far better position than ever before to push ahead with the Alliance for Progress program to lead the hemisphere toward political, social and economic stability.

THE EXTREME LEFT is not expected to take all this lying down. The Communists and their Castroist allies in Latin America can be relied upon to do all in their power to threaten governments and leaders with noisy demonstrations and various forms of violence.

But something new has been infused into the Latin-American scene with the development of the greatest world crisis since the end of World War II.

The overwhelming vote of the Organization of American States in support of President Kennedy's decisions is a token of the change.

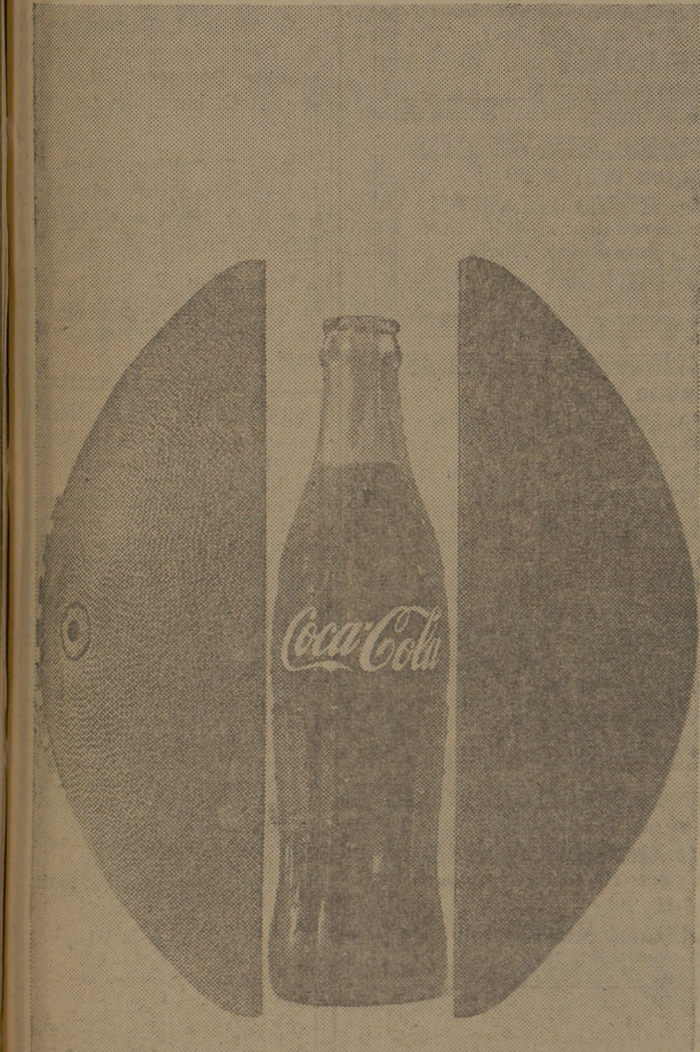
Latin Americans point out that President Kennedy's action will not necessarily make people of the hemisphere love the United States. But they say that if the Kennedy decision is made to stick, it will create respect for the United States of a sort which was not there before.

In private, Latin Americans of the educated class concede that their countries look for strong leadership. It is, they say, part of the heritage of the "caudillo," the strong chief who commands respect rather than affection.



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