

the world

Castro rejects charges

United Press International
HAVANA — "We call it a training center and our right cannot be questioned. That is the end of it."

With those words at the start of a news conference in the presidential palace Friday, Cuban President Fidel Castro flatly rejected charges that Soviet troops were stationed in Cuba and accused President Carter of being "dishonest, insincere, immoral."

In Washington, Carter said he watched Castro's speech on television and added with a smile, "I will comment Monday night" when he makes a television address to the nation.

Castro answered questions for 70 minutes from eight American journalists invited to Cuba ostensibly to hear him announce the release of a new group of Cuban prisoners.

He said, almost in passing, that he would soon "release hundreds more" including his former

comrade-in-arms Huber Matos, who has almost finished a 20-year prison term that started in October 1959.

Castro, however, wanted to talk about the Soviet troops, which he identified for the first time as "military training center number 12."

He insisted that the number and function of those troops is essentially unchanged since 1962. U.S. intelligence has put the number of Soviet troops at 2,800.

Castro also wanted to talk about President Carter, who he said "has created an artificial crisis" because of his political crisis and whose motives may have been "to disrupt the nonaligned conference and the process boomeranged."

Castro also rejected the idea of a face-to-face meeting with Carter to settle the issue — "because I have an elemental feeling of

dignity" and Carter is "insincere."

Castro, dressed in his usual outfit of neatly pressed olive drab fatigues and shiny black boots, smoked small cigars almost constantly, gesturing with both hands as the battery of television cameras captured each move.

Although Castro claimed the number of Soviet troops has remained constant, he said their equipment has been updated. But he declined to give details because "that is a military secret."

He rejected a proposal that a group of American reporters examine the training center to take a first-hand look at the situation. Castro said he would do so only if the United States would permit Cuban journalists to examine U.S. military installations — "beginning with the nuclear installations and the command station."

Defection crackdown starts

United Press International
MOSCOW — Despite defections, and the resulting embarrassment to the Kremlin, Soviet troupes and groups are still flying to the United States in force.

The musicians, dancers and athletes visiting the United States in coming weeks also must convince KGB agents traveling with them in a variety of guises that they will happily return to the motherland.

Example: one day after canceling the Soviet State Symphony's month-long tour, apparently because of the risks of new defections, the Soviets applied to the U.S. Embassy for 35 visas for their European Cup Boxing team to compete at Madison Square Garden in October.

Only 11 members of the group are boxers. Six more were described as masseurs, physicians and interpreters.

And the other 18? "Well, they call them trainers," said one Western source.

Could they be security agents, possibly with the KGB, sent along to prevent any defections?

"Let's just say that the boxers are the skinny ones."

Members of the Soviet State Television and Radio Symphony arrived in the United States last week for a brief tour.

Why was their tour permitted when the Soviet Symphony's tour was scratched?

"Because," said one source familiar with the Moscow music world, "there are more Jewish musicians in the Soviet Symphony than in the TV and Radio group."

It is clear that the Soviets regard Jews as a much greater defection risk. The 120-member Bolshoi Orchestra left for Japan last week at the invitation of the New Artists Association of Japan, but only after a few personnel changes one day before their departure.

Visa applications for two members — director general M.K. Davydov and musician U.G. Loevsky — were canceled for "health reasons." Their places were taken by two others. Both those kept back were Jewish, one source said.

The real degree of Soviet concern with defections was seen in the cancellation of the Soviet Symphony's October tour of 24 cities in the East and South.

The first performance was to have been Monday at Carnegie Hall in New York, under the baton of Maxim Shostakovich, son of the Russian composer Dmitry Shostakovich.

Rumors began circulating early Thursday that the tour had been canceled because officials feared more defections.

The Ministry of Culture said only that negotiations for the tour were "still under way" — three days before the group was to have left.

The definitive word came not from the Culture Ministry but from the State Concert Enterprise, Goskoncert, because the "American representative had failed to fulfill several conditions of agreement."

The unfulfilled condition was reportedly a guarantee from Columbia that no defections would take place. Other rumors, nearly impossible to substantiate, said authorities were conducting a "purge" of artists and athletes to weed out possible defectors before they were allowed to travel abroad.

The Russians obviously did not want to endure another month like the one that began Aug. 22, when Bolshoi ballet superstar Alexander Godunov defected in New York.

His ballerina wife, Ludmila Vla-

sova, returned to Moscow after a tense three-day standoff with Department officials at Kennedy airport, but the Soviets were not to be spared further humiliation.

On Sept. 16, Godunov's Bolshoi colleagues, Leonid and Valera Kozlov asked for and received asylum in Los Angeles. They are their post-defection debut Oct. 1 in New Orleans.

A week later, it was learned two former Olympic ice skating champions — Oleg Protopopov and his wife Ludmila Belousova — defected in Switzerland Sept. 17.

As one Russian remarked, "Now you know why they were the games held in Moscow. It is the only place they knew where one would defect."

World briefs

Town ruins found at bottom of Latvian lake

United Press International
MOSCOW — Out of the waters of the Latvian lake of Arayshu emerged the almost completely preserved ancient fortress of Latvia, the Tass news agency reported.

The fortified settlement, home of the ancestors of modern-day Latvians, was discovered by aqualung divers who spotted strange towers and battlements on the lake floor.

At the request of archaeologists of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, the lake was drained and the fortress emerged with articles made of wood, leather, birch bark, and even foodstuffs preserved by the centuries of layers of silt, Tass said Thursday.

According to specialists, the so-called "Lake Temple" is the oldest and best-preserved settlement ever discovered in Eastern Europe.

Traffic law aimed to protect Colosseum

ROME — City authorities will close major traffic lanes bordering the Colosseum to protect it from corrosive automobile fumes and vibration, authorities said Sunday.

They said studies of the Colosseum's walls made after the Sept. 17 earthquake revealed serious new fissures in the first-century amphitheater.

Aftershocks from the quake chipped small pieces from the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine and several temples in the Roman Forum.

Traffic superintendent Tullio De Felice said the city was studying plans to build a sloping embankment running beside the Colosseum to keep cars and buses away from the main walls.

"The earthquake was just the last straw," said Adriano La Regina, superintendent of antiquities.

Man commits suicide in shredding machine

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A man apparently committed suicide by jumping into a giant shredding machine at a sewage treatment plant, police said.

The unidentified man was found asleep on the plant's ground Sunday by a watchman.

He managed to break away and then, as the watchman looked on, jumped into a massive bacteria cleaning unit which has four shredders.

The machines were immediately switched off but police were unable to find his body.

Mixed reactions to papal peace plea

United Press International
DUBLIN, Ireland — Pope John Paul II carried his historic peace pilgrimage to Ireland Saturday, begging Catholics and Protestants "on my knees" to end their murder and bloodshed.

Massive crowds chanting "John Paul, John Paul!" — perhaps 2 million people in all — surged to the pope's side throughout his first day in Ireland.

The Irish Republican Army gave a guarded but positive answer to the

pope's plea for peace and national reconciliation, but a Protestant leader from Northern Ireland said it was "nonsense." The British government said the pope's condemnation of violence "will be widely and genuinely welcomed."

The pope's message, delivered in a stirring speech at Drogheda, on the Northern Ireland border, was aimed not only at the bombers and the snipers but at all the 5 million people of the two Irelands, who he begged to "walk the path of reconciliation and peace."

The enthusiasm of the Irish for the pontiff's exuberant response lengthened his schedule by almost 2½ hours, and it was nearly midnight when the 59-year-old leader of the world's Roman Catholics retired, ending an 18-hour day.

More than half the nation turned out Saturday. Throughs filled every park and city streets — waving flags of the Vatican, Poland and Ireland, shouting greetings, holding small children aloft to see the pope ever to visit Ireland.

The pope's tour rapidly fell behind schedule.

John Paul's dramatic message to Ireland came near the northern border, at the ancient walled city of Drogheda, where he said, "On my knees I beg you to turn away from the paths of violence and to return to the ways of peace."

Answers came within hours from Belfast, but they were sharply divergent.

First there was the Rev. Ian Paisley, an Ulster Protestant leader who condemned the pope's words as "nonsense" and said the Drogheda speech would "only give comfort to the terrorists ... (and) give fuel to the IRA."

But a senior member of the Provisional IRA's Belfast command said his group might react to the pope's call for peace by declaring a unilateral cease-fire in the violence-scarred north.

The anonymous IRA spokesman said such a truce was possible "if the holy father can offer the possibility of justice for Ireland."

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ANOTHER LIFE CHANGED

For as long as I can remember, I've always had a desire to be close to God and really know Him. My problem, however, was that I was never quite sure just exactly how He fit into my life. My parents took me to church every Sunday, so I figured I was at least doing my "duty" to God by attending. Although I felt I was probably good enough to squeeze into Heaven, I was continually plagued with nagging doubts and fears. Was this what it meant to know God? Would I really go to Heaven if I died? There had to be more — something I was missing.

knew there had to be something more — something that would last longer than an evening or a night.

Late in the spring of my freshman year, I decided to transfer to Texas A&M. Since I had always been a loyal Aggie fan, I was excited about the change. I just knew that this would be the answer to all my problems. I would at last be able to make something of myself and acquire the independence and security I so desperately longed for. Boy, was I wrong! I suddenly found myself with all the same problems, but this time too far



continued to talk, I realized for the first time that although I had always gone to church, I'd never personally given my life to Jesus. It was something I wanted and knew I needed.

I felt pretty good for the next few weeks following our conversation but then things gradually began to sour. I dropped out of the sorority and sought love and security through a relationship with a guy. At first things seemed so perfect; we loved one another and felt secure in having someone who really cared. But soon what we called love turned into a nightmare. Jealousy and selfishness crept in, and I felt trapped on a meaningless dead-end street. Eventually it ended as I knew it would and I was hurled into depression and loneliness once again.

It was at this time that I cried out in desperation to the God I had been rejecting for years. I asked Him to forgive me of my sin and rebellion and to take control of my life. I simply told Him that I now belonged to Him.

Since that time, I've learned the total fulfillment and security that comes from letting Christ rule my life. His unconditional love for me has made it possible for the first time to have the meaningful relationships with others I so desired. Although there have been difficult times, they don't even begin to compare with the emptiness I had before coming to know Jesus personally. He's filled the void of love and meaning in my life that I tried for so many years to fill with people and things. Now I am secure in His love and know that He will never leave me or let me down.

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International Meditation Society

There will be a free introductory lecture on the Transcendental Meditation Program on Tuesday the 2nd of October at 7:30 P.M. in Room 140 MSC. This lecture is for those just interested in the general knowledge or in learning the technique for expanding awareness and increasing enjoyment of all aspects of life.

Note: There will be an organizational meeting held at 6:30 p.m. the same evening for those who are already TM practitioners.

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