

Mr. Thant's Proposals

When national fears and passions are aroused, words of wisdom are likely to go unheeded. This, we trust, will not be the case with the profoundly moving statements of Acting Secretary-General U Thant on the Cuban crisis at the United Nations Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

"What is at stake," Mr. Thant reminded his hearers, "is not just the interests of the parties involved, nor just the interests of all member states, but the very fate of mankind. If today the United Nations should prove itself ineffective, it may have proved itself so for all time."

The Acting Secretary-General pleaded for suspension, on the one hand, of the U.S. naval blockade and, on the other, of the Soviet Union's armed shipments into the Caribbean island. He noted some common ground in the rival resolutions presented by the U.S. and Russia on the Cuban question, and urged the two world leaders to act at this point of agreement and order negotiations. He spoke at the request of forty-five non-aligned countries, and offered his own services as mediator in any manner that was required.

To our American neighbors, in the heat of an election campaign in which the Cuban issue looms large, these words may sound like platitudes. We do not think history will confirm that judgment. Whatever the day or the hour may bring forth, they are on record as the voice of mankind at this fateful juncture.

One point in connection with President Kennedy's charges could, and should, be cleared up without delay. Granting that the Cuban missile bases constitute a threat to the entire Western hemisphere and must be dealt with, is this threat imminent or is it potential? In other words, are the missiles equipped with the nuclear warheads which would make them effective? The U.S. reconnaissance photographs showed no evidence of warheads.

But they are "maturing"; they could be ready to use. They might be there. They might still be on their way from Russia. Or they might never have been sent at all. The United States is not certain.

Surely, as an immediate measure, the Security Council could demand an investigation and show down on this cardinal question. It could do so during the breathing spell which Mr. Thant has proposed. And, of course, refusal on Cuba's part to permit U.N. inspection for this purpose would tell tremendously in favor of President Kennedy's haste in imposing the blockade. That is the point on which U.S. policy is most open to criticism, and to which, obviously, it is desirable to get as much U.N. support as possible.

Learning The Hard Way India is learning the hard way that non-involvement in war is not just a matter of following a true-al- any-price policy. It seems apparent now that Prime Minister Nehru and his defense minister, Krishna Menon, seriously underestimated the danger of Communism on their own border. It is now a question of whether India can avoid a decisive defeat at the hands of the Red Chinese in the so-called "limited war" in the Himalayas. In any case, Mr. Nehru seemed to be hinting at a prolonged war when he warned his people the other day to prepare for "at least the Chinese message."

"We have to steel ourselves to the task before us," he said. "Perhaps we have been too soft and taken things for granted, but freedom can never be taken for granted."

This is something the Western powers tried to tell Mr. Nehru back in Korean War days, when he scoffed at their warnings that it would be a mistake to let Red Chinese aggression there be rewarded by possession of half the country. In an interview with a Washington correspondent in 1951, Mr. Nehru said: "You don't understand Chinese thinking. Menon has been talking with them. There is little doubt that the only reason the Red Chinese got involved in Korea was that they felt their security to be threatened when your armies approached the Yalu. The Chinese are not basically aggressive. They have too much to do at home."

Last week Defense Minister Menon told newsmen: "No one has tried harder than I to understand the Chinese." He had to confess that only now was the pattern of Chinese defense becoming clear to him.

On the other hand, they were suggesting talks for a peaceful settlement and on that they were preparing for a surprise attack and large scale aggression against our country."

In Korean War days, of course, India was preoccupied with its own troubled affairs. The Communist threat seemed far away, and Mr. Nehru and Mr. Menon could view it with philosophic detachment. Now they have concluded that with Peking, one concession leads only to the demand for another, or they would not have ordered their troops to use force in defending their own side of the McMahon line defining the Sino-Indian boundary.

In this shrunken world, it is not only India's interests that are involved in the Himalayan challenge. Red China, with its massive population and modern technology, may soon have the atomic bomb, and become perhaps an even more formidable enemy to Western civilization than Soviet Russia.

School Commandments

Alberta's Premier Manning, speaking at a recent dinner of the Canadian Association of School Superintendents and Inspectors in Edmonton, outlined "a layman's Ten Commandments" for professional educators. Here they are:

"Thou shalt teach my child to read, so that he will be able to find the worthwhile knowledge and wisdom of the ages. Thou shalt teach my child to analyze and compute, so that he will be able to arrive at satisfactory conclusions. Thou shalt teach my child the secret of effective expression, either by spoken or written word, allowing him to impart knowledge he has gained for the benefit of society.

"Thou shalt teach my child to appraise values, so that he will decide wisely each problem he faces in life. Thou shalt teach him to respect the rights and needs of others. Thou shalt teach him to respect work and enterprise as virtues and not look down on those who work by their hands and consider them beneath those who work with their brains.

"Thou shalt not destroy my child's belief in the eternal verities of life. Thou shalt not teach him that this life and what it offers and contains is the end of all his existence and purpose of living. Thou shalt teach my child to assume responsibility, and recognize his responsibility to society for his decisions and actions. Thou shalt teach my child that time is a depleting asset, so that he will use his hours effectively."

"Thou shalt most collections inspired by the old Biblical commandments, comments an exchange, this one is full of resounding phrases but lacks the grand precision of the Word as given to Moses. And—as every experienced lawmaker is aware—commandments that are vague, however praiseworthy in their intent, can only lead to confusion and trouble.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Currency speculators get short shrift in Soviet Russia. Six of them, according to a Moscow despatch, have been ordered shot in the Ukraine. It may be of some significance, however, that they all bear Jewish names. The judgments against them may have been motivated by racial considerations.

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THE SEASON ON PARLIAMENT HILL

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Canada's Sovereignty And Status Symbols

Two steps to make manifest, away home with him" — as some humorous little jack-of-office recently told the president of Iceland, visiting our bluffly inhospitable capital.

But despite this official ban, many Canadians nevertheless accept medals and decorations. Most notable among these of course was the arch-creator of the ban himself, the late Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King who not merely avowedly accepted the title of distinction, but also accepted British decorations from the British Sovereign both before and after he rang down the curtain.

In wartime, outstanding gallantry by members of our defence forces and outstanding civilian services of a high order are both recognized by the bestowal of British medals.

But these medals and honours from time to time are awarded to accept a professed foreign honor. This is better than offending the foreign donor, they say to rationalize their civic disobedience. And of course there are several non-Canadian collectors of foreign honours, as well as regular foreign donors.

For good enough cause, the government of France has understandably stretched a long ribbon of the Legion of Honour across Quebec bestows the Order of the Patriote on its own citizens. Most of our few cases come from the southwest, indicating that a focus of the disease still exists. Let's hope the situation never gets any worse.

Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.

European Reaction

Europe's reaction to United States moves in Cuba utilizes sympathetic understanding with wary reluctance and a pinch of bewilderment.

All government level, the instinctive tendency is to close ranks in a crisis, to avoid doing anything which could make matters difficult for President Kennedy. But behind this solidarity there are some genuine reservations and a good deal of concern.

No official comment is likely to be forthcoming from the NATO council in Paris. In such circumstances, the organization seldom issues a collective response. It is certain, however, that some governments have done that, NATO has solidly supporting the American initiative.

The council representatives had a full day's work Monday night on the motives behind the U.S. moves, but they are not expected to do anything other than report to their home governments.

ALLIES RELUCTANT The Guardian of Manchester, in a story from Paris, suggests that except for the United States the U.F. allies have been reluctant to accept the idea of a "no-fly" zone over Cuba, and particularly of the Netherlands and Norway.

But the governments and probably the bulk of the people are fully aware of the difficulties and they feel the need for solidarity in an emergency.

But there is some questioning, both at the official and unofficial level, as to whether or not it is the right issue on which to make a political statement.

There is also a sense of surprise. The Cuban crisis has been maturing for a long time, but few expected the present flash-point. Both British television networks Tuesday night included nine suspended cases, including the well-known present "emergency" programs on Cuba. The tone was tense, but friendly, and wholehearted.

USED TO TREAT Europeans have lived so long in the British shadow that there is little emotional here in the matter of Cuban penetration. In such circumstances, the organization seldom issues a collective response. It is certain, however, that some governments have done that, NATO has solidly supporting the American initiative.

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Freedom Of Political Belief

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Marcel Lumbroso, has done Canadians a service with his ruling that no political beliefs are his private business. The ruling, believed to be the first of its kind in Canadian parliamentary records, came after questions in the House about the policies of a group controlling the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Speaker found these private matters outside the administrative responsibility of the corporation, and added in his ruling: "Such political convictions per-

Plague Still Plagues Doctors

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THE DEATH of a senior British scientist from pneumonic plague is a reminder of the accidental infection in his laboratory. This is the hazard of pneumonic plague, the chance taken by research workers.

Those who were in contact with this man during his last few days in the laboratory were given prophylaxis because this type of plague is transmitted like an ordinary cold. Laboratory workers are much more serious. To date, none of the victims' colleagues, or members of his family, has acquired the disease. We have had the physicians or nurses who cared for him during his illness.

Two forms of plague are caused by the same organism — Pasteurella pestis. The pneumonic form involves the lungs and symptoms are similar to ordinary pneumonia except in severity.

The bubonic type is much more common and is so named because buboes develop in the lymph glands in the neck, armpits, chest, and groin. The condition begins abruptly with chills, fever, and malaise, vomiting, prostration, and delirium. We can do without this disease, but the victims of bygone years that destroyed large segments of the population in time to time.

The disease responds to a number of antibiotics. Streptomycin, provided they are used early. The mortality rate has dropped from 70 per cent to less than 10 per cent with these drugs. I often wonder how many millions of lives would have been spared had these products been available two centuries ago.

But plague continues to be a problem in many parts of the world. There were 300 cases reported to the World Health Organization last year. These do not include those from the mainland of China. Contrast that with the 1910-1912 epidemic in the United States that reported annually from 1910 to 1928.

There were three cases of plague in this country last year but this small number is noteworthy in that it is the only 24 cases in all of Africa, Europe, and Asia since 1928.

Most of our few cases come from the southwest, indicating that a focus of the disease still exists. Let's hope the situation never gets any worse.

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DRUG REACTION

S.R. writes: Could the anti-rugby pills cause reactions like a severe influenza in the head that comes and goes?

Probably, because reactions to any drug are variable. This after effect is also very common but now and then the user complains of heartburn, nausea, or other abdominal discomforts, or headache.

MONONUCLEOSIS

Mrs. T. writes: Please send information on mononucleosis in children.

This condition now called infectious mononucleosis, usually in the form of glandular fever, is a common disease. It is a stamped self-addressed envelope for leaflet on this disease.

EYELED SPASMS

S.S. writes: What is the cause and what is the cure of eye twitching?

Twitching eyelids often are associated with eye fatigue, or overindulgence in tea, coffee or tobacco. Irritated and inflamed eyes may lead to twitching.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

The ability to learn ever-present.

Many newspapers dubious of the Kennedy initiative, the pro-Labor Daily Herald says Britain's best move would be to support the proposal made by the House of Commons to join the Canada—that the eight neutral countries that the Geneva disarmament conference should make an on-spot investigation in Cuba.

With all these reservations, and despite demonstrations by knowledge and of anti-intervention, Europe will probably go along with President Kennedy's move to this day that Cuba will produce a "Suez in reverse," with the old party's policy of opposing the new as the new opposed the old in a similar fashion. The Egyptian six years ago this month.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A wise husband is one who remembers his wife's birthday but forgets which one it is. — Winnipeg Falls Review.

When you take stuff from one wife to another, you're not doing it in research—Niagara Falls Review.

Impaired driving cases have become so common that it is obvious that only the sternest "hardship" on those whose cars are vital to earning a living, and whose families depend on them, should be considered this and a suspension of their license for the road. — Kingston Whig Standard.

When the President stumps the great corps of trails behind generally in buses. Last week, as a Kennedy motorcade rolled through Stratford, Conn., with three great buses bringing up the rear, a small group on the curb was overheard explaining to a companion: "Those are all his relatives." — New York Times.

Earth's Polar Regions

National Geographic Bulletin

If the earth's poles were real shales of imaginary magnetic poles, the polar areas would look like pin cushions.

Dotting the regions are the poles of the North and South. The magnetic dip pole, the principle magnetic poles, are where free-swinging, magnetized needles point straight down when their centers of minor magnetic poles.

Best known of course, are the magnetic poles in the Arctic and Antarctic. The geographic pole is near Thule, Greenland, and the south is in Antarctica, 701 miles from the South Pole. The geographical and geomagnetic poles are fixed points.

The actual magnetic poles, however, wander about according to changes in the earth's magnetic field. They seem to drift about the Canadian Arctic and the South Pacific near Antarctica, widely known by the name of magnetic poles. These poles are not even directly opposite each other.

Ten years ago, the magnetic north pole was on the northwest edge of Prince of Wales Island in the Canadian Arctic. Since then, the pole has advanced northward across 80-mile-wide Barrow Strait to southern Baffin Bay.

The magnetic poles exist because the earth itself is a huge magnet surrounded by a magnetic field. The field is made up of invisible lines of force running roughly north and south.

About 100 permanent observatories around the world, many temporary stations, and special equipment are constantly in use to measure the earth's magnetic fields. Using the data gathered, scientists know the earth's magnetic field up to the surface of the planet. They use charts to determine how far from true north the magnetic field is at different locations. Hidden deposits of magnetic material, such as iron ore, also may affect a compass.

The earth's magnetism varies in the course of time. In the middle latitudes, electric currents high in the atmosphere cause changes in the magnetic field. Between morning and afternoon, forces deep within the earth cause changes in compass direction which may amount to 30 degrees or more over two or three centuries.

Among the data transmitted by the magnetic recording mechanism aboard the craft is the finding that a steady "solar wind" of charged particles blows through space, being emitted originally from the surface of the sun. Magnetic fields in space have been found to be more complex and multi-directional than expected.

Many of these matters are of significance because they may affect the design of future space-ships, and give an indication of the conditions which space-craft will encounter when they advance into the interplanetary trips. So far NASA says it sees no reason for basic changes in its plans for orbital flights to come. But it is entirely possible that modifications will develop as the space data continues to be transmitted. It even is conceivable that difficulties now anticipated may turn out to be less formidable as we learn more. As it rises, the winds of space, Mariner II is doing his job well.

WORLD NEWS

CHARLOTTETOWN TO: Sackville 2.80, Moncton 2.80, Saint John 4.80, Halifax 5.20, Antigonish 5.60, Sydney 6.20, Quebec 11.25, Montreal 12.25

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