

# Editorial Comment Excerpts From Newspaper Editorials on Decision to Impose Arms

Following are excerpts from newspaper editorials in the United States on President Kennedy's decision to impose an arms blockade on Cuba as gathered by The New York Times yesterday:

## East

### NEW YORK

#### Must and Will Unite

The Herald Tribune (Ind. Rep.)

The people of the United States must and will unite behind the President in the course which Soviet aggression has made inevitable. They can hope, with him, that Premier Khrushchev will abandon a dangerous provocation that his own government declared was useless for their security. Americans can trust that reason will prevail in Moscow. But unless and until it does, Cuba must be quarantined against a plague more deadly than any which has yet afflicted mankind: the plague of nuclear war.

#### Acted Magnificently

The News (Ind.)

We think the President has acted magnificently, and we feel confident that the American people will back him to the hilt in his new and courageous Cuban policy.

#### Served Fair Warning

The World-Telegram and Sun (Ind.)

President Kennedy's action on Cuba accepts that situation for exactly what it is — a brazen and warlike threat to the security of the United States. And he served fair warning on the source of this threat — the Soviet Union. In our opinion, the country will be solidly behind the President.

If the Russians are determined on armed aggression, choosing only the time, there's nothing we can do save prepare to fight. If, on the other hand, they are testing our courage and trying to see how far they can go without war, they have had their answer.

#### In the Name of Courage

The Journal-American (Ind.)

The words had to be said. The action had to be taken. It was a magnificent declaration of policy that acknowledged the risks an unscrupulous and ruthless enemy has forced upon us; and that affirmed a calm determination, as our heritage demands, to take them in the name of courage and freedom.

#### Allies Exhorted

The Mirror (Ind.)

This is an excellent time to remind our friends and allies, those for whom we shed our blood in two wars, those with whom we have shared our wealth during half a century, that they are penny-wise and pound-foolish. There may be some small advantage for Great Britain and Canada and some of the smaller nations that live on American bounty to ship supplies to Cuba. But in the long run it is a mistake. Maybe the time has come for us to go our own way.

## A Question Raised

The Post (Ind.)

A momentous decision has been made. It will be recklessly heralded in many places for the wrong reasons. Whatever its impact on Cuba, the move has unquestionably disarmed the President's domestic political enemies.

Accepting the assumption that our intelligence agencies have correctly briefed the President, we must nevertheless ask: Why did we not first present the issue to both the O.A.S. and the U.N. Security Council — with a clear warning that we could not countenance prolonged filibuster — before proclaiming our present course? Was this literally a matter of hours? In a situation so fraught with international peril, were we justified in acting first and explaining afterward?

We pray that the President's decision will prove to have been warranted and wise. But we reserve the right to ask questions about it.

## LONG ISLAND

### Has Done What He Must

Newsday (Ind.)

President Kennedy, faced with incontrovertible evidence that offensive missile bases are being prepared in Cuba, has done what he must. Yet the danger of nuclear extinction is so overriding that the President still seeks "to move the world back from the abyss of destruction." He has called upon Premier Khrushchev to halt this peril to us all. The next few days may very well decide whether it is to be war or peace.

## NEWARK

### Had No Recourse

The Evening News (Ind.)

In the light of so provocative and hostile an act, the President had no recourse other than to initiate whatever measures, beginning with a blockade, are required to shield this nation and its neighbors from the threat of nuclear destruction. To do otherwise would be to court disaster. In this hour of "highest national urgency" the President will receive the full and disciplined support of the American people.

### The Lesser Risk

The Star-Ledger (Ind.)

Castro's Cuba has long been a "bone in the nation's throat" — to borrow a phrase from Khrushchev. Whether the current action eventually will result in dislodging the bone remains to be seen. Mr. Kennedy obviously believes that the course on which we are now pointed is the lesser risk. And we believe most Americans will agree with him.

## BUFFALO

### Firm Steps Long Delayed

The Courier-Express (Ind.)

If there be any words of criticism, they justly can be that the firm steps now being taken have been long delayed. But all that is behind us, as in all great national crises, the nation must and will unite behind the Presi-

dent, and face the dangerous future with courage and faith in the right.

## HARTFORD

### Up to Khrushchev

The Courant (Rep.)

Blockade is war; if anyone chooses to challenge our blockade. It is up to Mr. Khrushchev. Let him reflect before he acts. Let him not misread the mood of America or misjudge her as Kaiser Wilhelm and Adolf Hitler did, to let loose two world wars. And those titanic cataclysms were small wars compared to what now might be.

## BOSTON

### Better Now Than Later

The Herald (Ind. Rep.)

Better to have met the issue squarely in Cuba than later in Berlin or Turkey or even Paris. What has to be done is better done now. Better to so conduct ourselves that our nuclear credibility will not again be questioned, so that we can stand convincingly in Berlin or wherever we may in the future be challenged. Last evening should be a landmark in history, the time when a beleaguered free world refused any longer to pay tribute of fear to aggression and imperialism.

### Our Case Is Clear

The Traveler (Ind. Rep.)

Our case is clear. If Khrushchev wants to avoid war, let him withdraw his threatening weapons from Cuba. As the President says, this may only be the beginning. But our enemies abroad can be sure of one thing — that we in this country do not intend to live as a mass bull's-eye for Soviet missiles, nor do we intend to move out of firing range. But we do intend to make certain that nobody starts firing at us from Cuba.

### Laid It on the Line

The Globe (Ind.)

Speaking for all Americans, this 45-year-old President of the United States laid it on the line for the 68-year-old Premier of the Soviet Union to hear, read and ponder. From here on, Mr. Kennedy was saying to Comrade Khrushchev, it is your move. We shall risk everything, and life itself, rather than turn back or give in.

## Middle Atlantic

### BALTIMORE

#### Firmness Merits Support

The Evening Sun (Ind. Dem.)

Such action cannot be dismissed in the offhand way of former President Truman, who says the Russians always back down when confronted with force. President Kennedy is much more aware of the seriousness of the step he has taken, as his words in addressing the nation showed.

He was not, however, deterred by thought of the Russian reaction from taking the firm measures he thought necessary to protect American security, and his firmness deserves the wide and nonpartisan

support it appears to be receiving.

### To Restore Status Quo

The Sun (Ind. Dem.)

The Soviet Union has placed the peace under peril, yet the fundamental meaning of its action is that, as the President emphasized and reemphasized, the nuclear status quo upon which has rested the world's hope for peace is profoundly shaken by the hand of Moscow. Our purpose now is to restore if possible, by means of vigorous American action in a cause all free nations must approve, that status quo.

## PHILADELPHIA

### Can Be No Minimizing

The Bulletin (Ind.)

There can be no minimizing of the President's decision. We are no longer dealing with the problem of Fidel Castro but with the whole problem of Soviet Russia and Communist aggression. If the Kremlin has been emboldened by the hope that American courage would not meet the tests, it is about to discover its error.

### Acted With Wisdom.

The Inquirer (Ind.)

We believe the President acted with wisdom, with courage and with reason in laying the facts bare for all to see.

## South

### WASHINGTON

#### Inevitable Response

The Post (Ind.)

Kennedy has made the inevitable response. No rational person can say that this is carrying the world to the brink of war. If calamity should follow the quarantine, the responsibility will not lie upon these shores.

### The Essential Point

The Evening Star (Ind.)

It may be that the President should have acted sooner. The essential point is that what Mr. Khrushchev has started to do in Cuba posed a challenge which simply could not be ignored or evaded. He will enjoy no immunity from the consequences of unleashing a nuclear war, and he knows it.

## CHATTANOOGA

### Bold But Necessary Action

The Times (Ind. Dem.)

There will unquestionably be unified public support for this bold but necessary policy action. The rest is up to the Kremlin and, in the next important hours, we shall see who stands for peace and an orderly world.

## LOUISVILLE

### To Avert Graver Risk

The Times (Ind.)

Most Americans will agree with the President that the risk of incurring a nuclear war would have been much graver had the United States failed to act on the convincing evidence

CONTINUED PAGE 4-E

## The Soviet Response

The Soviet Union's retort to President Kennedy's speech was filled with the kind of deceptive propaganda that the President so sharply denounced. The Kremlin admits that it is supplying Cuba with arms, but it maintains that they are for the purpose of defense. Ignoring the evidence of missile bases under construction and jet bombers in Cuban hands, the Kremlin asks the world to believe that these are defensive weapons because the Soviet Union is devoted to peace and could not be guilty of aggression.

According to this windy view from Moscow, the United States is the real aggressor against a weak and defenseless state in the Caribbean which has no other desire than to maintain its freedom and promote the welfare of its people. If Cuba were really in control of its own destiny, no crisis would have arisen and Castro would scarcely have been heard of beyond the borders of his own country. The world is facing a grave threat to peace only because the U. S. S. R. has taken control over the Cuban government and sought to use this island 90 miles off our shores as a base for the spread of communism to the remainder of the Western Hemisphere.

The Soviet's propaganda thrust even went so far as to denounce the quarantining of Cuba as "an unheard-of violation of international law." Regardless of what may be said of the amorphous principles of international law bearing upon blockades, none of which appears to be strictly applicable to the Cuban problem, it is almost amusing to hear the Russians solemnly denounce the United States for an alleged infraction of rules which they themselves treat with contempt.

But words have always been cheap for the Soviet Union. The real test will lie in its decision on whether to employ force behind its indefensible policy of building up offensive power in Cuba. If the Soviet Union should insist upon such an aggressive course, the world will face a very perilous season indeed.

Under the pressure of this crisis each nation will need to weigh its basic interests with the greatest care. It is no time for emotional responses that would endanger all mankind. In 1956 the American people were deeply outraged by the Soviet Union's suppression of Hungary's bid for freedom, and many demanded active intervention by their Government in behalf of the courageous Hungarian people. Despite all this emotion, the United States refrained from intervening because Hungary had been within the Communist orbit since World War II, and it was obvious that any use of outside military force to change the status quo would have brought on World War III.

Now the positions are reversed. The U. S. S. R. is certainly irritated by the American decision to arrest the march of aggressive communism in the Western Hemisphere, but sober heads in Moscow must also calculate the risks of trying to upset the traditional American peace system in an area that is especially vital to the United States. This country can no more tolerate the establishment of aggressive Soviet weapons in Cuba than the Soviet Union could have tolerated the extension of Western military power into Hungary.

The Soviet Union has no vital interests in Cuba. It cannot afford to jeopardize its own survival for the sake of maintaining an anti-American irritant.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

that the Soviet Union is building intercontinental missile bases on the island of Cuba.

### Danger Boldly Grasped

The Courier Journal (Ind.)

President Kennedy has boldly grasped what Hotspur called "This nettle, danger." People everywhere must pray with all their hearts that from it he can "pluck this flower, safety."

### BIRMINGHAM

#### We Border on War

The News (Ind. Dem.)

President Kennedy came late to a conclusion many Americans already had reached. Politics must not get in the way of the unity of the American people. We border right on war. No man should mark it otherwise.

### ATLANTA

#### Will Is Steadfast

The Constitution (Dem.)

The American people stand united behind President Kennedy in his Cuban action. He has acted bravely, responsibly and well. It is crucially important that Premier Khrushchev comprehend that fact and refrain from leading the world into the abyss through misjudgment of American will in this moment. That will is steadfast and unshakeable.

### Military Lead Assumed

The Journal (Dem.)

While there certainly are some elements of calculated risk in this move, the assumption must be that we led from strength and that our military superiority is such that our terms finally will be respected.

### Middle West

#### CHICAGO

#### Doctrine Re-Established

The Tribune (Ind.)

The United States is going to stand for no more threats from Cuba. We are not going to let Cuba have arms which menace us or our neighbors. The President can count on the support of a united people. President Kennedy made it clear that if the Russians want war they can have it.

Many Americans believe that the President's stern declaration should have come much sooner. In effect, Mr. Kennedy has once again established the Monroe Doctrine as American policy.

### Patience at an End

The Sun-Times (Ind.)

President Kennedy has spoken the mind and the fear of his fellow Americans. Come what may, the people of this country will back Mr. Kennedy. Khrushchev should now know that America's patience is at an end.

### MILWAUKEE

#### Perfidy and Provocation

The Journal (Ind.)

Russia can have peace if Khrushchev wishes. It can have war — horrible as that would be in this Nuclear Age — if it persists in its aggressions. The time men have long dreaded is upon us. Russia made it inevitable by constant perfidy and provocation.

## EXCERPTS-Continued

### MINNEAPOLIS

#### Will Be Hailed by Most

The Star and Tribune (Ind.)

Regardless of the Soviet reaction, we believe Mr. Kennedy's strong statements will be hailed by most Americans and by most people in other citadels of freedom.

### DETROIT

#### Long in Coming

The Free Press (Ind.)

Nearly all Americans will agree that President Kennedy was properly tough and forthright. But we are among the many who question why it was so long in coming.

### Forget Political Division

The News (Ind.)

It is the American tradition to forget political division and support Presidents in times of international collision, or when, as a nation, we start down an obvious collision course.

### CLEVELAND

#### President Not Temporizing

Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.)

The President made it clear he was not temporizing with a critical situation; that he was taking the necessary first steps "to halt this offensive build-up;" that he was aware of the grave risks involved, and that, if necessary, he was prepared—and the nation should be prepared—to go all the way.

### ST. LOUIS

#### Decision Compelled

The Post-Dispatch (Ind. Dem.)

Whatever may explain the Soviet policy, its consequences as described by the President could not be ignored by any American government, and Mr. Kennedy has done what any President would be compelled to do. If Khrushchev is wise, he will accompany the bluster to be expected from him with a quiet alteration of his dangerous course.

### Far West

#### SAN FRANCISCO

#### Relief and Pride

The News-Call Bulletin (Ind.)

If the President was blunt in his warnings to the Kremlin, he was equally frank in his statements to the American people. The risk of war is present and recognized, but the alternative is ultimate surrender. And Americans are not a surrendering people. There is a sense of relief, and pride, too, that we have taken our stand past which the tyrant goes at his own risk.

### Magnificent Declaration

The Examiner (Ind.)

It was a magnificent declaration of policy that acknowledged the risks an unscrupulous and ruthless enemy had forced upon us; and that affirmed a calm determination, as our heritage demands, to take them in the name of courage and freedom. And this is why the words had to be said—the action had to be taken.

4000 miles from its homeland. When all the shouting has been done, therefore, it will be evident to thoughtful men that the Kremlin will not push its championship of Castro to the point of a holocaust unless it has lost all sense of proportion.