

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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POWERLESS

(From Toronto Vanity)

It may be that some students don't realize that the current crisis is the most serious since the end of the Second World War.

The official orders behind President John Kennedy's speech are as tough as the speech itself. In plain language they say that:

- all ships carrying offensive weapons to Cuba must either turn back, submit to search and seizure, or fight.
- not only must the delivery of offensive missiles to Cuba be stopped, but those already in Cuba must be dismantled or the United States will institute a more rigorous blockade.
- if this action leads to Soviet retaliation, the U.S. is prepared to risk a major nuclear war to defend its position.

More than a year ago Kennedy set himself against the growth of extremist attitudes in foreign policy in the United States. These attitudes — a cool contempt for negotiation and a cocky demand for heady victories over international communism — were offset by the Kennedy programme — the necessity to avoid the possibility of war.

Kennedy, in fact, subscribed to the theory that today conventional notions of "winning" have become dangerously irrelevant.

Kennedy has now changed his mind. He has succumbed to the mesmeric effect of the Monroe Doctrine (or those parts it is fashionable to remember). Or else he's bluffing. Or possibly he's hypnotizing the November 6 voter. Whatever the reason, the fact remains: Policy in Washington has changed.

What can we do?

A CONVERSATION SEPT. 22, 1962

Scene: the White House. J.F.K. in rocking chair. Dean Rusk sitting silently opposite.

"Okay Dean, this time we're going to have to do something about Cuba. See if you can get Nik on the phone."

(15 minutes pass, then Jack reaches for phone)

"Hello Nik . . . not so good this end. Well I'm having a spot of trouble here with the

Cuban situation. You know how Americans get all het up about Castro — well now the Republicans are shouting for something to be done. If you want a Democratic Congress you're going to have to give me a hand."

"Da, I see your problem Jack. Na, let me see. Vot vould you say to us putting up a few rocket bases in Cuba and den you make a fuss and ve take 'em away again, uh?"

"Sounds like a good idea, but how do we work it . . . we'll have to choose a time when nothing much is going on in the world. That way you can gain some international prestige and I'll win out nationally."

"Veli, how about dis. You come out vid a statement dat ve are shipping rockets to Cuba — ve'll stick up a few sites so de CIA can photograph dem — and den you say you are going to blockade Cuba if ve don't move out. You send out your navy and I'll make sure ve have a few ships in de area for you to stop. Den I orders de ships to return and offer to take away de rocket bases and everybody is happy."

(Relief shows on Jack's face)

"Sure, that's a great idea, Nik! How about making it the end of October. The elections are coming up then and I can make Donkeys out of the Republicans! One thing, tho, keep an eye on those bases — for goodness sake don't let Castro get his hands on them."

"Oh, come now Jack, don't you trust me anymore. Besides, between you and me, ve are not too happy vid our Fidel. 'E gets dese illusions of grandeur vunce in a vile and vants to set up 'is own government. But den YOU know vot it's like, vot vit Panama and Vorkosa."

"Sure I trust you, Nik. Look, we'll have to get together and decide the policy for the coming year — Berlin and so on. How about holding a meeting just after the 'Cuban Crisis'. I'll get my boys working on it and we'll have plenty of publicity. Say in November."

"Fine den, Jack. See you in November."

A PARABLE

Once in the time of man there was a little tanned fellow named Manuel. He lived in a small village in the jungle away from the walls of the big town and on the edge of the vast plain. In the manner of all the villagers he cut roots and sold them to the Guardian who in return guarded the village gate and sold the roots in the big town.

The villagers lived in very great happiness and they owed this happiness to the Guardian. This was disputed by no one. When the Guardian told them this they didn't notice the shacks and the filth and the swollen bellies so much. The Guardian who was not one of them and was often in the big town told them how lucky they were to be well and safe and happy. In truth the villagers coveted neither food nor property nor freedom and in their deepest hearts wanted nothing more. Manuel thought on all these things and said nothing.

It came to pass that Manuel left the village and searched for wisdom from wise men and in the learned books of the world. Many long days he spent in the halls of the university in the big town and even in the camps of the warriors across the vast plain. The message of wisdom was, at first, discordant, the townsmen's wisdom seeming not like the warrior's, but Manuel asked many questions and studied hard and after a time found what was acclaimed by all as the truth. It was clear and abundant and Manuel wrote it down in the form of a saying like this: "It shall be just and well that no man or village shall live for any other man or

village and that no man or village should ask or suffer any other man or village to live for him."

It was said also and Manuel had no reason to doubt it that the truth makes man free and freedom brings happiness. Was it not so that the builders of the big town who had come from across the vast plain had carved this truth in the main gate of the town and did not the warriors have this painted across their very shields? It was in the habit and history of men to think this way. Manuel thought long on these things and said nothing but turned and journeyed back to the village.

It was a hard time in the village when Manuel let his wisdom be known and it was good news for the Guardian had been harsh and bellies were very large. And Manuel took his wisdom to the Guardian and said, "This I have found to be the rule of men and therefore you must depart and leave us to sell our own roots and guard our own gate for we wish the freedom and happiness of all men!" The Guardian was then exceedingly angry and drove Manuel away from the village saying as he had before that only he could provide happiness.

And Manuel went to the big town and asked of the head men if they would come with their warriors to help drive out the Guardian and there was only general muttering for such are town people. In the camps of the warriors across the vast plain however there were shouts of encouragement and promises to help for such perhaps are warriors. Manuel thought on this and turned and travelled back to the village across the vast plain.

After many long and cruel days the villagers led by Manuel forced the Guardian to flee. This was a time of joy and the villagers gathered together and feasted and sang the songs of the warriors from across the vast plain who had come to teach them how to sell their own roots and guard their own gates. And Manuel was summoned to the Great Council of Men and was approved by all. In that time all was well for the villagers and they knew this and were proud.

The days that followed were not happy ones for the villagers. The men from the big town refused to buy roots and the warriors from across the vast plain would only buy roots in exchange for guarding the gate and they were soon in the manner of Guardians.

One black night some men from the big town descended on the village and slew three of the villagers. This was strange for the townsmen and the villagers had always been friends and many former villagers lived in the town. Then it became known that raiding parties from the big town had ravaged the caravans from the lands of the warriors. Manuel thought hard on all these things and said nothing.

So it happened that one hot afternoon Manuel took himself onto the hill behind the village for he was greatly troubled. From there Manuel could see in the distance the long lines of soldiers moving through the main gates of the city on their way to the village. When he heard the cries of the villagers Manuel thought not at all; only instinctively turned and walked back into the jungle.

LETTERS

TRAVEL

Sir:

Due to the tremendous response from the article last week in The Gazette, the Dalhousie Christmas Travel Plan has set aside two separate aircraft. Flight number 2425 leaves Halifax Dec. 20 at 3 p.m., arriving in Toronto non-stop at 5.30 p.m., and flight number 2429 leaves Halifax at 3.15 p.m. arriving in Montreal non-stop at 4.30 p.m. Both these flights are for Dalhousie students only and only a limited number of seats remain.

Also thanks to the Gazette, Newfoundland students have organized to take advantage of the group rate.

We, the organizers, wish to thank The Gazette for its co-operation in helping to publicize this student activity which will prove a benefit to all students concerned.

Sincerely,
David H. Walton-Ball,
Peter Howard.

Sir:

As a freshman I should like to condemn the attitude of some of my class-mates.

The comment "Mr. So and So would be a good lecturer if he could only control his class better." was made to me the other day.

That comment, and the fact that one professor had to ask for silence four times in one lecture period, prompts me to write this letter.

Freshmen! We have graduated from elementary schools. Many of us have to personally pay for our education. If you have not got the manners to behave in class, go back to High School.

Sincerely,
Hopeful.

PRIZES FOR ESSAYS AND POEMS

The Gazette is initiating a poetry and prose contest in an effort to stimulate budding writers on campus. Two prizes of \$10 each will be awarded for the best poetry and prose submission. Two contests will be held, one this term and the other in the spring. Deadline for the first contest is Nov. 28, 1962. Poems should be of reasonable length while essays and short stories should not exceed 2,000 words.

Entries should be sent to The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette. Do not sign the entry, but enclose your name and address in a sealed envelope with the submission. The winning submission will be printed in The Gazette supplement.

STUDENT FORUM

A Student Forum will be held tomorrow (Thursday) in Room 21 of the Arts and Administration Building. The topic will be: CUBA. All students are urged to attend.

