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6316 – Policies of the U.S. in the Cuban Situation Compared with Korea

Guests: Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) and Mr. Edward Hunter

Morphew: Introduction...member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Preparedness Subcommittee...Hunter, expert on Communism, psychological warfare, author, chairman of anti-Communist liaison...to Hunter...do you notice a parallel between actions and policies in dealing with the Cuban situation and in the Korean situation?

Hunter: It is an exact parallel. I had many of the POWs who came out of these camps in Korea who told me if the United States had made any effort to rescue any of them, even if it had failed, it would have changed the picture and saved a number of them from cracking up. It is the same situation in Cuba. It would be much better to make a hit-and-run raid and fail for the effect of the Cuban people, of letting them know that people are for them, that there is hope, than to betray them and let them know that no effort will be permitted.

Morphew: To Thurmond...are we in danger of having people, not only in Cuba but in other Communist countries, believe that we have betrayed them or run out on them?

Thurmond: Well, Dick, I'm very much concerned about this because in the first place, I don't think we have a right to try to keep those Cubans from going back to Cuba. They didn't take off from American soil, and why should we try to protect Communism there in Cuba against these patriots? These are Cubans who wish to encourage the Cubans back there and lend hope to them and let them know that they have not been abandoned. And I think that we are making a great mistake. I think it's a bad psychological mistake, and I think it's a great moral mistake we are making in pursuing such a course.

Morphew: To Hunter...the Korean war was the first conflict in which we did not emerge with a total victory...do you believe the Cuban situation is going to result in a duplicate of the Korean situation?

Hunter: Yes, there is a parallel there also. In fact, it is all part of policy that has been consistent, what the senator, Senator Thurmond, has called a no-win policy. Actually, it is a policy by international socialists who believe that capitalism is bad, Communism is bad, so neither must be allowed to win. There must be some third force that will attain victory out of this stalemate. That is the thinking behind this secret policy which these people do not dare tell the American public.

Morphew: To Thurmond...you have referred to our foreign policy as a no-win policy and you've been speaking of the goal of achieve nuclear stalemate...disarming this country to the point where we are on a nuclear parity with the Soviet Union...do you feel that this leaves us in serious danger?

Thurmond: Well, Dick, I certainly do. What some of these people are trying to do is to bring about a nuclear parity. What we need, of course, is to maintain a nuclear superiority. We have a nuclear superiority now, but if the Communists are allowed to continue to improve their weapons, if we do away with our manned bombers, and if we don't go forward with our programs, then there will be a parity. In my judgment, this is extremely dangerous and this policy should be discontinued.

Morphew: To Hunter...we've seen what's happened in Cuba in recent years, and a couple of years ago, if anyone suggested that Castro was a Communist, he was branded a right-wing extremist by most of the press and commentators in this country...you've been a student of Communist techniques and strategies...what if we decided to let the Communists have Cuba, would they be satisfied to stop there?

Hunter: That is another way of repeating what was known as, let the dust settle policy at the time of China. And the inevitable result of a let the dust settle policy was the Communists taking over the mainland of China. The similar attitude now inevitably means Communist victory so long as that policy remains.

Morphew: So just as the policy toward china has led to engagement of American troops against the Communist in combat in Laos or Vietnam, you believe that letting the Communists have Cuba would lead to conflict in other parts of the western hemisphere?

Hunter: This is all additional steps and stages in the war against the free world. It points up the fact that we do not understand, we do not study, guerilla warfare, Communist warfare. The Communists are engaging in a step by step procedure. We have never, for instance, studied why Havana fell when you had eighteen men against 45,000. That was the result of a preceding situation where the people were led to believe they could not trust the free world. We would put them out on a limb and betray them.

Morphew: To Thurmond...one thing concerning the people is the indecisiveness of our president, at one time the administration took a bold stand and then backed off...a policy of drifting...do you believe this is deliberate or is there no real decision as to what our policy should be?

Thurmond: Well, Dick, I couldn't say just what is in the mind of the leaders who are following such a course, but it's a very dangerous course. I think we've got to be decisive, we've got to be firm. The only language the Communists know is force. We can't take any chances. We've got to be powerful, we've got to be stronger than the Communists militarily, cause that's the only time they will listen to us is when they know that we can whip them. Now, if we go along and follow this no-win policy that we've been doing, as Mr. Hunter says, it doesn't mean that we're gonna lose but it doesn't mean we're gonna win. And a lot of these people in my judgment are trying to take this country further to the left, that is, from private enterprise to socialism and they are hoping that the Communists will evolve from Communism to socialism and then we will both meet out yonder in the future in a utopia and there will no longer be any conflict. Now, I think that's a very dangerous course. In the first place, I believe in private enterprise. I believe in the ownership of property. Under the Communist system, a man can't own his home. He can't own a factory. He can't own a shop of any kind. He can't own a business. The government owns everything. The government makes all decisions. The government takes the children away from the parents at three years of age and puts them in state orphanage, indoctrinates them with Communism from then on. The government determines whether or not they go to grammar school, whether they finish high school. The government determines where they go to college. The government determines what course they take and the government determines where they live and what salary they receive. I don't want any part of it. I'm satisfied with America. We have more freedom here than any country under the sun, and these people who are leading us now are leading us the wrong way because we must maintain to the heritage on which this country was founded. In my judgment, the people may have to rise up in public opinion and let their senators and congressmen know how they feel and they ought to let the president know how they feel. If they do this I think it would help a lot because we ought to win. We didn't win the Korean War, we had a stalemate. We have forces there now just south of the 38th parallel and the Communists have them there just north of the 38th parallel, merely an armistice, then go back to fighting the moment the word is given. Now, that is typical, I'm afraid, of what's gonna happen in Cuba unless we take a firmer stand. In my judgment, we've got to clean Communism out of Cuba. It's too close to us. We can't allow it to remain there. It's gonna be dangerous not only to us but it's gonna be dangerous to Central America and South America. If we don't do something about Cuba, next time it may be Brazil or Venezuela or some other country. I assure you, the status quo will not remain.

Morphew: To Hunter...a state department official has described the Cuban raiders as irrational...who is really being irrational?

Hunter: If that was irrational, the arising in Berlin was irrational, Poland was irrational, and Bunker Hill was irrational. They were not irrational, they were necessary for what

was to take place later. What is happening is that the State Department is implementing policy willy-nilly for the Communist network. The Communist idea just today is to tell their peoples that there is no hope, that the United States is betraying them. I've been reading broadcasts from Red China to Formosa. They use the word 'betray.' They say, America is betraying you. This is the whole line that the Reds use and we are giving them it on a silver platter.