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Sen. Dodd, Here For Visit, Suggests Foreign Aid Cut

If two former U.S. presidents, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower and the late Democratic president John F. Kennedy, had dealt in Cuba as President Lyndon B. Johnson did in Santo Domingo in 1965, the U.S. today would not be bothered with Fidel Castro.

Such was the opinion expressed by U.S. Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut during an interview in the Colonnades Hotel Wednesday.

Johnson's action in sending troops into the Latin American nation when a Communist inspired revolution broke out is generally credited with preventing a Red takeover there.

Sen. Dodd, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, stopped here to visit with his long-time friend, developer John D. MacArthur.

Advised of reports from Washington that the current military budget is over expended and a \$10 billion dollar increase is anticipated for the Viet Nam war, Dodd said he felt there were areas in which existing and upcoming budgets can be trimmed to meet the deficit.

"First place I would recommend a cut is in foreign aid," said Dodd.

The Connecticut senator has long opposed foreign aid to such foreign leaders as Sukarno and Nasser, "I say we should spend money to aid our friends, not our enemies."

Dodd feels strongly about Castro's takeover of Cuba. "We allowed a handful of Communist inclined people to grab a great country," he commented. "This was a blunder by both the Democrats and Republicans as well as the State Department. We knew Castro was a fellow traveler from his activities in the Bogota riots. He was a bad actor and certainly the State Department and CIA knew about it."

As to Viet Nam, Dodd feels the U.S. waited too long to establish a military force to fight the Viet Cong. "I was there two years ago and from what I saw it was obvious the situation would grow worse. People in Viet Nam did not know what was going on because of controlled information.

"Certainly it was obvious two religious groups were involved in a deep feud. Both sides sponsored opportunists. The Communists were smart enough to take advantage of this split in South Viet Nam."

Dodd is glad President Johnson made his peace offer to the Viet Cong. It is an indication of U.S. willingness to halt a war before total destruction of an enemy may be accomplished.

Asked if he felt hydrogen bombs should be used to overpower Viet Cong forces, Dodd said he had no opinion on the matter. "This is a military decision to be relayed to the President," he added. "Whatever is necessary to win should be used but this is a matter to be determined by the Defense Department and President Johnson."

On the subject of whether Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara holds too much power over the U.S. military, Dodd replied: "He has the knowledge to make decisions. Certainly he is a powerful man in the Johnson government. He has full confidence of those he is dealing with and is capable of dealing with any situation."

If Red China should get into the Viet Nam war, Dodd believes Formosa should also become involved. "They should have been in the Korean war. We can't afford to have the same mistake made twice."

Decision of Sen. George Smathers not to run for another



COMMENTING on politics, war and foreign aid, U.S. Sen. Thomas Dodd spent Wednesday afternoon at the Colonnades Hotel in Palm Beach Shores. He was visiting his longtime friend, developer John D. MacArthur. The Connecticut senator plans to spend the rest of this week in Pompano Beach before returning to Washington for the opening of the 90th Congress.

er Senate term brought regrets from Dodd. "George Smathers is an excellent senator and has been a good man for Florida," he commented. "He'll be missed in the Senate where he is a man of great influence and knowledge."

The Connecticut legislator will spend the remainder of

this week relaxing in Pompano Beach. He plans to return to Washington in time for the Jan. 10 opening of the 90th Congress.