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## White House, Senate Clash

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WASHINGTON.

A new Senate-White House clash on foreign policy erupted here yesterday when Sen. J. William Fulbright urged the Administration to meet Panama's canal-treaty "negotiations" demands and acknowledge that Fidel Castro's Communist Cuba might survive indefinitely.

Sen. Fulbright, D., Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a long-time student of international affairs, caused the Administration to writhe further when he suggested this country relax its restrictions on trade with Communist nations, assay rather than assail French recognition of Communist China, and resurvey American policy toward that Asian country.

A White House spokesman said stiffly that Sen. Fulbright had delivered a "very interesting speech, with many items worth of consideration."

"But specifically on Cuba and Panama, it does not represent the policy of this Administration.

Asked if Sen. Fulbright's remarks and other criticisms of foreign policy lately in the Senate were viewed as a concerted attack on the Administration's handling of international affairs, the spokesman replied: "There is nothing unusual or improper about a Senator saying anything he wishes on foreign policy."

The 58-year-old Sen. Fulbright's speech, delivered to an almost empty Senate chamber but to attentive galleries packed with students and tourists, seems certain to spark wide discussion in the White House and State Department, especially since he asserted "the executive branch, and particularly the Department of State, is subject to the malady of chronic and excessive caution" about foreign policy changes.

It also seems likely to raise some questions about the political relationship between President Johnson and Sen. Fulbright, sometimes mentioned as a possible Secretary of State. But yesterday he was the voice of disgruntlement and dissatisfaction with some of Mr. Johnson's foreign policies.

Speaking slowly and softly, his hands in his pockets, Sen. Fulbright in his 13-page speech, said:

"We are confronted with a complex and fluid world situation and we are not adapting ourselves to it." He added: "We are clinging to old myths in the face of new realities" and trying to resolve such conflicts by branding other ideas and viewpoints as "unthinkable thoughts."

The United States, he went on, should state "positively and clearly it is prepared to negotiate revisions" in its 1903 canal treaty with Panama, "even though this may necessitate unpopular decisions."

It is unreasonable for this country to regard its canal dispute with Panama as "a test of our courage and resolve . . . of our bravery and will to defend our interests," he continued.

"The real test in Panama is not of our valor, but of our wisdom and judgment and common sense," the Senator said.

The Administration has insisted since the Panama crisis flared in January that it would discuss but not negotiate the canal treaty. All attempts to mediate the dispute have broken up over this semantic problem. There is, Sen. Fulbright, "no reason why the United States cannot put an end to the semantic debate. . ."

Turning to Cuba in his speech, which he entitled "Old Myths and New Realities," Sen. Fulbright said the United States should acknowledge "the acceptance of the continued existence of the Castro regime as a distasteful nuisance but not as an intolerable danger so long as the nations of the hemisphere are prepared to meet their obligations of collective defense under the Rio treaty of 1947.

This country has three options on policy for Cuba, Sen. Fulbright continued: It can invade the island, blockade it tightly or accept the Communist Castro regime "as a disagreeable reality and annoyance but one which is not likely to be removed in the near future through the first two choices.

Invasion can be ruled out, he said, and the American attempt to blockade Cuba into collapse "has been a failure."

In recent years, this country has become "transfixed" with Cuba, "making it far more important both in our foreign relations and in our domestic life that its size and influence warrant," Sen. Fulbright went on.

"I think we are bound to conclude that Castro is a nuisance . . . a noisy minor demagogue (but no) Napoleonic menace . . . and that he cannot be gotten rid of except by means that are wholly disproportionate to the objective," he declared.

The Senator made these other points:

¶The United States should relax its restrictions on trade with Communist countries because it cannot pressure its allies to uphold such barriers

and because "a moderate volume of trade in non-strategic items (can be) an instrument for reducing world tensions and strengthening the foundations of peace."

¶French recognition of Red China was "untimely and carried out in a way that can hardly be considered friendly to the United States." But President de Gaulle's establishment of diplomatic relations with Peking "may nonetheless serve a constructive purpose by unfreezing a situation in which many countries, none more than the United States, are committed to inflexible policies by long-established commitments and the pressures of domestic public opinion."

¶The United States should not recognize Communist China or help it into the United Nations, but this country "should introduce an element of flexibility, or more precisely of the capacity to be flexible, into our relations" with Peking.

However the United States should not enter into relations with Red China unless it abandons its "intention to conquer and incorporate" Formosa.

¶The United States should acknowledge that Russia "has ceased to be totally and implacably hostile to the West" and deal with it as "a great power, quite apart from differences of ideology."

¶There is a "pressing need" to reevaluate American policy in South Viet Nam, and he saw "only two realistic options: enlarge the conflict or make a new effort to help the South Vietnamese fight the war as at present. He supported the second option.

Sen. Fulbright's speech came one day after President Johnson declared that "reconciled agreement instead of rash retaliation" would characterize his foreign policy.

Mr. Johnson said patient American negotiation is proving successful in Panama, Cyprus and Cuba.

The Senator's speech came under sharp and immediate attack from the Republican National Committee as "a trial balloon which the Johnson administration is sending up to prepare public opinion for the acceptance of a foreign policy that could lead only to disaster for the United States and other free nations.

"The course Sen. Fulbright advocates is the same road which Neville Chamberlain traveled in the 1930s" when

Britain followed an appeasement policy, the National Committee said in a statement.