

KENNEDY FILLS IN CONGRESS CHIEFS

Sees Leaders Again on Cuba —Briefings Are Set for All Legislators, Governors

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—President Kennedy again briefed Congressional leaders today on the Cuban situation.

As they left the White House, some heading for airports to resume political campaigning, the President told them to be prepared to return on eight hours' notice.

All members of Congress and all State Governors have been hastily invited to attend special briefings on the Cuban situation to be held in five cities across the nation tomorrow and Friday.

This was the second time the Congressional leaders had been at the White House since the emergency meeting Monday at which the President announced his decision to halt the shipment from Soviet countries of weapons and materials to the missile sites of Cuba.

At today's meeting the leaders were reported to have been told that Premier Khrushchev "had not made up his mind" how to meet the American challenge.

No Ships Intercepted Yet

They were also informed that no Soviet ships among those known to be bound for the island had been intercepted.

There was no repetition during the 55-minute meeting of the proposal Monday by Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, for an immediate invasion.

Mr. Russell, who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, would not discuss this proposal today. He deplored its having leaked out of the Monday conference, saying:

"It can serve no useful purpose to the instant case, because our Constitutional Commander in Chief, the President, has announced the policy of this country to the world.

"The only voice that can speak for the United States in a time of international crisis is the voice of our President. I am sup-

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ALL LEGISLATORS WILL BE FILLED IN

Governors Also to Be Given Data at Special Meetings Today and Tomorrow

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porting his program to save our country and the Western Hemisphere from Communist domination with whatever strength and ability I command."

As reported authoritatively, Senator Russell had contended that it would be less costly in terms of casualties to make an invasion move at once, instead of awaiting possible consequences of the quarantine.

His view was that a quarantine would not preclude the necessity of an invasion and he accordingly saw no reason for waiting to begin one.

The President was represented as holding that immediate invasion would be too precipitate and would result in a major conflict before the Soviet Union had had an opportunity to study the situation as presented by the American challenge.

Some of the Congressional leaders indicated that they did not know whether the general situation had improved, deteriorated or remained the same. Throughout the day the atmosphere at the Capitol was thick with apprehension. News tickers were watched constantly for word of an expected interception of a Cuba-bound Soviet vessel.

Members of the delegation going to the White House were instructed to use the same Southwest Gate for entry to the grounds, and to depart the same way. They did, and scattered. Later the consensus drawn from the meeting began to emerge.

No Easing Is Implied

The White House let it be known that the freeing of Senators and Representatives for resuming their campaigns did not imply any easing of the situation. Asked about this, Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, answered with a crisp, "No, sir."

Those who raced to Washington on military planes Monday had been requested by the President to remain in town "at least" until today. The full complement was at the White House at 5 P.M.

During the day the members reaffirmed their support for the President's quarantine move.

The leaders cautioned against being "lulled" by signs that Premier Khrushchev might be backing away from the quarantine challenge.

At the White House meeting great gratification was displayed over the 19-0 vote yesterday by the Council of the Organization of American States, authorizing "the use of armed force" to carry out the quarantine.

The invitations to all Congressmen for special briefings, conveying a special note of urgency, were signed jointly by Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. They were hand-delivered to Congressional offices today with the request that members be reached immediately by telephone.

Similar invitations to attend the briefings were sent to the Governors.

Tonight the Department of State had been notified of 200 Congressional acceptances. The department had no immediate count of acceptances by the Governors.

The Five Cities Chosen

The conferences are set up on a regional basis to accommodate members from all sections of the country. The cities chosen are New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Fort Worth and San Francisco. Meetings are scheduled for tomorrow morning or afternoon in the first four cities named, and in San Francisco Friday morning.

The hurriedly called briefings are seen here as an added bit of strategy on the part of the Kennedy Administration to obtain the fullest public and political support for its new tough policy toward Cuba.

The Congressional election campaign, involving all members of the House and 39 seats in the Senate, is now in full swing. The build-up of Russian military strength in Cuba is a subject of intense concern in most parts of the country, and it has figured prominently as a partisan issue in a number of local campaigns.

Another factor in the Administration's decision to bring the entire Congressional membership up to date on recent Cuban

developments, it is believed, is the fear that some poorly informed members might misinterpret the purposes and possible consequences of the new policy.

Notice of the briefings, contained on a single mimeographed sheet, was delivered to each Congressional office during the forenoon today by a group of eight State Department secretaries.

"These sessions are being arranged for the many members of Congress who have expressed an interest in being briefed on recent developments concerning Cuba but who do not find it possible to come to Washington at this time.

"Because of the short advance notice provided, the Congressional offices in Washington are being contacted . . . and asked to telephone their respective members as soon as possible.

"Only members of Congress will be able to attend the briefings because of the classified nature of some of the material involved.

"We hope you will find it possible to participate in these briefings."

The New York meeting will be held at 9:45 tomorrow morning at 30 Church Street and is expected to be concluded by noon. This is for members of Congress from the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

The New York and Chicago briefing sessions will be conducted either by Roger Hilsman, Jr., the State Department's Director of Intelligence and Research, or his deputy, Thomas L. Hughes. The decision as to which man will go where had not been made late today.

The three other meetings will be conducted by Frederick G. Dutton, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations.