

The original documents are located in Box D16, folder “Aquinas College Republican Club, October 19, 1962” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Friday, October 19

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr. declared last night that to use American tax money to ransom Cuban citizens from a Soviet-controlled government would add another blunder to the sorry story of Cuba. In an address to the Aquinas College Young Republican Club Ford said that the "crucial blunder was made in April of last year when at the last minute the White House cancelled unnecessary U.S. air and sea support included in the original plan for the recapture of Cuba by Cuban patriots."

While expressing sympathy and concern for the 1100 Cuban patriots involved Ford pointed out that the issue is whether the U.S. is to assist in any way the atheistic Communist conspiracy especially in its takeover of an island nation less than 100 miles from our own shores.

Ford insisted that to give American tax money to the Soviet-dominated Communists in Cuba would weaken our moral fibre at home and our prestige abroad. He called for strong action against the Castro government including an economic embargo and the immediate recognition of a Cuban government in exile.

Ford concluded by saying that "To refuse to pursue a strong and vigorous policy in Cuba will give credence to Khrushchev's analysis recently related by Robert Frost that the United States will not take effective action because of the liberal philosophy of the present Administration. If the Kremlin is further



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convinced of the truth of this analysis by a payment of a ransom to Castro, we can only expect more and greater Communist aggression throughout the world.

(Note: Copy of Ford's complete statement is enclosed.)

