

Correspondence

“The Yellow Uniforms of Cuba”

To the Editors: During a period when the question of a resumption of relations between Cuba and the United States is under fresh discussion, Theodore Jacqueney's recent article, “The Yellow Uniforms of Cuba” (*Worldview*, January/February), is timely indeed. It reminds us that we can ill afford to be critical of Soviet persecution of Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov without raising a collective voice of indignation over Cuba's persecution of Huber Matos and the many other Cuban citizens who languish in secret and silent incarceration for the “crime” of being critical of their government. There can be no moral double-bookkeeping where human rights are concerned.

While I accompanied Mr. Jacqueney to Cuba last October, I was not privy at the time to his extensive conversations with those familiar with the status of Cuban political prisoners. Therefore, it was rather a shock for me to learn that the Cuban dissidents he talked to wanted the U.S. trade embargo lifted and diplomatic and trade relations normalized between the U.S. and Cuba—albeit for different reasons than their government. It seems to me that great weight should be given to the opinion of these critics of the Castro government that normalization of relations can only work to diminish repressive actions.

My own view is that the rigid posture of the Castro government to date with respect to its political prisoners is a curious mixture of genuine insecurity over the stability of the Revolution (they haven't forgotten the Bay of Pigs or the exiles) and a cynical manipulation of the issue for external political benefit (if those who are truly political prisoners were freed and permitted to leave Cuba now, what would the government do for an encore when a bargaining chip might be needed in normalization talks with the United States?).

You and Mr. Jacqueney have done a great service by bringing the issue of political prisoners in Cuba to our atten-

tion. It is now incumbent on those of us interested in human rights to see that our Congressional representatives are equally well informed on the question as they come to consider normalization of trade questions in the future.

William J. Bowe

Chicago, Ill.

To the Editors: The article about political prisoners in Cuba by Theodore Jacqueney was of particular interest to me. I respect him as an able and honest journalist and admire him for the lengths he went in his Cuba visit to get at the truth in this sensitive matter. It is one thing to sit at home and be a righteous critic, but quite another to press firmly for the truth on a scene loaded with personal risk. His story of what he found out deserved to be the lead article in this issue.

I hope that others will follow you in heeding that poignantly moving plea from Huber Matos inside his La Cabaña cell to denounce the “coward that under the cover of apostle enjoys himself tormenting the lives of helpless men and women inside these putrefiers called prison cells.” I feel that revealing the truth to a wide readership is a striking denunciation in itself. As an American, I am grateful that you did so, and hope that you will continue your interest in this tragedy existing so close to our shores. Our dedication against tyranny should always be held as one of our strongest inheritances.

E.G. Lansdale

M/Gen., USAF Ret.
McLean, Va.

To the Editors: People and countries tend to treat free expression as a luxury, as something you do or give only when you have a margin of safety, stability, economic security, or some other such contrivance. Ideas, growth, change all flourish in charged atmospheres, whether they be charged with hope or with adversity. Solutions, improvements, and various other kinds of answers lie hidden within all of us, I think, awaiting only the proper atmosphere.

Mr. Jacqueney knows this, and his probing, his tremendous focus, results in a moving yet rational advocacy for those people among us who give their

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WORLDVIEW

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Worldview* is to place public policies, particularly in international affairs, under close ethical scrutiny. The Council on Religion and International Affairs, which sponsors the journal, was founded in 1914 by religious and civic leaders brought together by Andrew Carnegie. It was mandated to work toward ending the barbarity of war, to encourage international cooperation, and to promote justice. The Council is independent and nonsectarian. *Worldview* is an important part of the Council's wide-ranging program in pursuit of these goals.

Worldview is open to diverse viewpoints and encourages dialogue and debate on issues of public significance. It is edited in the belief that large political questions cannot be considered adequately apart from ethical and religious reflection. The opinions expressed in *Worldview* do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Council. Through *Worldview* the Council aims to advance the national and international exchange without which our understanding will be dangerously limited.

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**Bible and Ethics
in the Christian Life**
by **Bruce C. Birch**
and **Larry R. Rasmussen**

(Augsburg; 221 pp.; \$4.95 [paper])

An intelligent and necessary, if somewhat pedantic, argument for bringing together biblical studies and ethical reflection, which, the authors believe, have operated in separate worlds for too long.

The Socialist Decision
by **Paul Tillich**

(Harper & Row; 185 pp.; \$10.95)

Billed as Tillich's "longest connected work in the field of social ethics," this book was published in 1933 and now, well translated by Franklin Sherman, makes its first appearance in English. It places Tillich solidly in the Frankfurt School, which was to be developed by Horkheimer, Lowe, Mannheim, Habermas, and others. Opposed to dogmatic Marxism, the focus is on the young ("the real") Marx. Although it will no doubt be picked up by current groups intrigued by the possibilities of democratic socialism, it will be of chief benefit to those interested in the development of Tillich's thought but who have not facility in German.

**The History of the German
Resistance 1933-1945**
by **Peter Hoffmann**

(MIT Press; 847 pp.; \$19.95)

Five hundred thirty-four pages of text and more than three hundred pages of notes witness to the exhaustive nature of this study. There is very little padding, and, surprisingly, the story does read like a story and not merely a catalogue of data. Among many interesting points the author reports that Churchill, a few years after the war, privately expressed regret that England had not taken more seriously the approaches from Dietrich Bonhoeffer and other resistance participants who wanted assurances that a coup against Hitler would be rewarded by more moderate peace terms from the Allies.

Announcement

Black Philosophers. A study is being conducted on the history of blacks in philosophy between 1700 and 1970. The research includes writings by such authors as Anton Wilhelm Amo, Leopold Sedar Senghor, Paulin J. Hountondji, Jerome R. Riley, Alain LeRoy Locke, and William Thomas Fontaine. Works by black lay and professional philosophers are included. Any information on published articles, books, unpublished manuscripts, and bibliographic data on philosophic works by these and other black authors would be appreciated.

Please forward information and inquiries to Leonard Harris, Ph.D., Moton Center for Independent Studies, 3508 Science Center, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

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Correspondence (from p. 2)

freedom, their comfort, even their lives to charge our atmosphere. He helped me see that, and I appreciate it.

Jerry Roback

Gig Harbor, Wash.

Update

The son of Cuba's most celebrated dissident, Huber Matos, was shot up in Costa Rica on December 27, 1976. Huber Matos, Jr., 32, had been traveling around Latin America, calling on prominent politicians, clerics, and journalists to publicize the cause of his father's release.

Chile had proposed the release of two prisoners in Chilean jails in exchange for imprisoned Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky and Cuban prisoner Huber Matos. When Bukovsky was released, the hopes of the Matos family were raised.

Young Matos telephoned Bukovsky in Switzerland immediately after the Russian was freed. Bukovsky responded with appeals to Cuba to accept the second exchange, appeals that were widely publicized in Latin American press and broadcast media.

An excerpt of my *Worldview* article, "The Yellow Uniforms of Cuba," urging the proposed freedom swap—Matos in exchange for former Chilean Senator Jorge Montés, a Communist—was published as a *Washington Post* "Op Ed" column less than twenty-four hours before Matos Jr. was sprayed with bullets. His car was hit six times. Two shots hit him, one passing between his heart and liver, the other passing through his shoulder. Now nearly recovered, he intends to resume his campaign for his father's release.

The would-be assassin escaped.

Theodore Jacqueney

Food Aid

To the Editors: I read with interest the article by Kai Bird and Susan Goldmark on food aid to Bangladesh ("Food Aid vs. Development") in your January/February issue.

I must, however, take issue with the statement in paragraph two that "food aid generally does not reach the poor..." which is certainly not true as far as the World Food Programme (WFP) is concerned. This Programme, which handles about one-sixth of all international food aid, is providing very considerable assistance to Bangladesh