

# TORONTO DAILY STAR

Established 1892—Joseph E. Atkinson, Publisher, 1899-1948  
Published at 80 King St. W., Toronto 1, by Toronto Star Limited

JOSEPH S. ATKINSON, President and Publisher

Directors: WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL, Vice-President RUTH ATKINSON HINDMARSH  
HARRY A. HINDMARSH, Secretary BELAND H. HONDERICH, Vice-President BURNETT M. THALL, Vice-President

The daily average paid circulation of The Daily Star for JUNE, 1964, was 353,583

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1964

## Challenge to Canada

The bombing of the Cuban freighter Maria Teresa in Montreal Harbor early Sunday morning is a challenge to Canada which the Canadian government cannot ignore.

Within a few hours of the explosion the Cuban Nationalist Association, an anti-Castro exile group in New York, announced that it was responsible for the outrage. The statement described how "commandos" of the organization attached a homemade "limpet" mine to the ship's side.

This was described as the start of an "offensive war" against Castro's Cuba and especially against Cuban ships loading supplies for the island. (The Maria Teresa's cargo consisted of particularly warlike materials — powdered milk and baby food.) Apparently the explosion was not as destructive as planned; the ship did not suffer major damage. The spokes-

man insisted, however, that this failure would not deter the association from mounting operations "in any country of the West which maintains diplomatic or commercial relations with Cuba."

This is an intolerable piece of criminal arrogance. Ships and their crews in Canadian harbors — regardless of their nationality — are under Canada's protection. The destruction or attempted destruction of a ship by explosives, fire or similar means is an extremely serious offence under our law, especially where danger to human life is involved. This fact needs to be impressed on terrorists who propose to carry their feud with the Castro government into Canadian waters and to use violence to prevent this country from carrying on trade with any country it wishes.

The statement made by the leaders

of the Cuban Nationalist Association amounts to a public confession of the crime. On the face of it, it would seem to provide sufficient evidence to justify their extradition from the United States to face trial in Canada.

This, of course, would require the co-operation of the U.S. authorities, which cannot be taken for granted. In the past, Washington has given aid and comfort to the Cuban exiles in their private war against Castro, and has turned a blind eye on raids against Cuba mounted from American territory.

Whether this tolerance extends to attacks on Cuban shipping in Canadian waters remains to be seen. The only way to find out is to start extradition proceedings as soon as possible.

Any undue hesitation or delay in putting the law into operation can only encourage further outrages.