Why Worry About Cuba Arms?

By Don Williams

It should make no difference to the United States whether Cuba is equipped with Wronen missiles, says a talented young Soviet pianist who is in Fort Worth for more than two weeks.

In the first place, says Mikhail Vysheenski, Cuba is an independent country and can do what it wants to do.

In the second place, Vysheenski adds, he is studying within his borders.

So why worry?

Vysheenski and the three other Soviet entourages in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition arrived Thursday afternoon and spent the night in homes that were chosen to make the vigilance extra high in the eyes of the authorities.

On his first day, Vysheenski played a solo recital at the Fort Worth Art Center. His second day was spent listening to the other players.

Vysheenski is 25 and has been playing in the U.S. for almost a year. He has won the first prize in the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition and is now a student at the University of Texas in Austin.

He is a driven, articulate and demanding person who wants to be as good as he can be.

On the following day, Vysheenski played a recital at the Fort Worth Art Center. He was asked to perform a piece that he had never played before.

"I was not prepared," he said. "But I decided to play it anyway.

"I think it was a good decision," he added.

Vysheenski's performance was received with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

He said that he had been impressed by the level of competition and that he hoped to improve in the future.

"I want to play better," he said. "I want to be better than I was.

"But I don't want to be too good," he added. "I want to be just good enough to be happy."