

OSD REVIEW
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NSC REVIEW
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Background Material
16 November

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

November 16, 1962

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Agenda for the Executive Committee Meeting, November 16, 11 AM

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1. Intelligence summary
2. Report on the status of IL-28 negotiations.
(memorandum will be distributed)
3. Plans for response to any interference with surveillance.
(memorandum will be distributed)
4. Report from the Department of State on the negotiations in New York.
5. Contingency planning in the event there is no early agreement on IL-28's.
(memorandum of possible actions will be available)

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November 16, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Subject: Status of the negotiations on removal of IL-28's

We have exchanged a series of messages with Moscow in recent days, and the sum and substance is as follows:

The Soviets say that they will take the IL-28's out, not now but at some later point, and the offer so far appears to be tied to a series of prior actions on our part: lifting of the blockade, registering assurances, etc. We have made it clear that this is quite unacceptable. Our view is that the first step must be a Soviet order to remove the IL-28's within a period of 30 days. We have said that when that order is given, we are willing to announce the lifting of the quarantine. We have given a tone of increasing urgency to our messages on this subject, and yesterday we informed Ambassador Dobrynin that this matter was reaching a turning point and that if progress cannot be made, we may soon find ourselves back in a position of increasing tension.

These exchanges with Moscow have included reiteration of our position on the present urgent need for surveillance, and they have produced on the Russian side support for UN observation posts in the Caribbean area, including the U. S. We have replied to this last proposal by indicating that any reciprocal inspection which included the U. S. should logically include appropriate ports of the Soviet Union.

We have strongly attacked the Soviet claim that its part of the bargain has been fulfilled. Our position is that the Soviets are in default on three points: 1) removal of the IL-28's; 2) on the spot verification of removal, and 3) adequate safeguards against reintroduction of offensive weapons.

The one piece of information not on the Washington-Moscow channel which is of some novelty is the statement of Kuznetsov to Stevenson last night that he was instructed to report that "all nuclear weapons have been removed from Cuba."

McGeorge Bundy

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Paul H. Nitze
9 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NSC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Revised Course of Action in the Contingency that a Surveillance Plane is Shot at or Destroyed

1. The importance and legitimacy of surveillance should be a constant theme in our public and private discussions of the Cuban problem, to build understanding at all levels of the contribution which such surveillance is making to the reduction of danger.
2. In the event one of our surveillance planes is shot at or destroyed, we should first establish the facts beyond any reasonable doubt.
3. In the case of an unsuccessful attack by anti-aircraft artillery or by fighters, the President should send an urgent message to Khrushchev stating that we will be obliged to retaliate immediately in the event of any further attack on our planes and ask that he urge the Cubans immediately to cease such attacks.
4. In case one of our aircraft is shot down by fighters in an isolated incident the appropriate action would be against MIGs whether in the air or on airfields. In case one of our aircraft is shot down by anti-aircraft artillery, there should be a prompt retaliation against those positions. In either of the above cases, it would be presumed that the action was by Cubans, not by Russians.
5. If there were an attack, successful or unsuccessful, against one of our surveillance aircraft by a SAM as an isolated incident, we should eliminate the particular SAM site or sites responsible for the action.
6. In the contingencies covered in paragraphs 4 or 5, we should arrange for a message from the President to Khrushchev to be delivered, as nearly as possible, simultaneously with the attack. The message to Khrushchev would explain the vital necessity of continuing aerial surveillance pending establishment of other arrangements, would refer to Kuznetsov's statement to McCloy on October 31 (USUN 1581 to State) that all anti-aircraft in Cuba is in Cuban hands, and state that the action taken was necessary to enable us to continue surveillance.
7. In all three contingencies covered in paragraphs 3, 4 or 5, the OAS would be informed of our intended action as far as possible in advance, without request for an endorsement. It would be advisable to inform the NATO Council and the Secretary General of the UN of our action and the reason for it. In all cases we should announce to the public what had happened, the action we have taken, and the nature of the position we were communicating to the USSR.

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8. The foregoing discussion refers to an isolated incident which does not indicate a general intention on the part of Soviet or Cuban authorities to resist U.S. air surveillance. If the latter situation arises, it will be necessary to proceed to wider action. Such wider action would include one or all of the following actions: (1) an extensive elimination of Cuban air defenses; (2) attacks against the IL-28's; (3) a reimposition and expansion of the quarantine to complete blockade.

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