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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

2 March 68

Dear John:

I am attaching hereto a copy of the memorandum which I forwarded to the President concerning the Anzoategui Affair. You may find it helpful in knowing what measures we are taking.

Alexis Johnson and I have agreed to have members of our staff get together and work out detailed procedures to effect better and closer coordination of emergency actions requiring quick reaction. You may be interested in designating a member of your staff to sit in with them and see if there are any measures to be taken to improve the coordination of State and Defense Departments with CIA. If so, I will have my staff get in touch with whomever you would like to designate and inform him of the meetings they plan to hold.

Sincerely,

1 Inclosure a/s

Honorable John A. McCone, Director
CIA Headquarters
Washington 25, D. C.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington 25, D. C.

February 27, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Anzoategui Affair

The analysis and conclusions contained in your memorandum of February 20, 1963, on the above subject, have been carefully considered by Mr. McNamara and me, and in consequence the following actions have been taken to ensure adequate alerting and timely action should similar incidents occur in the future:

1. The Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency have been requested to inform the National Military Command Center (NMCC) of the Joint Staff of all information or requests which could result in the use of military forces. (The NMCC is the Department of Defense center for military operations.)
2. The Military Departments have been provided copies of your memorandum of February 20, 1963, and directed to review, and revise where needed, the operating procedures for the Operation Centers. These revised procedures will include instructions to watch officers that all information received which could result in the use of military forces will be passed to the NMCC regardless of source or political implications.
3. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been directed to review the operating procedures of the NMCC and operating instructions of the NMCC duty officers to assure that they are adequate for the timely notification of top level Department of Defense decision-making officials of information and situations which could result in the use of military forces.
4. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has also been informed that Mr. McNamara and I are to be notified immediately of any situation which in his opinion is of interest to the White House and the Department of Defense and which could require decisions in regard to the use of military force. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs is also to be notified if any situation has politico-military implications.

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It would be most helpful to us if the White House Situation Room would see to it that the NMCC (as the central and primary point of contact on all matters of interest to the White House and the Department of Defense which might involve the use of military forces) receives all necessary information and requests.

Signed

ROSWELL L. GILPATRICK
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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