

Cuba
71A 3470 #6

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

13 February 1963

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. McCone, who is currently abroad in Europe, has sent me the attached message and asked that it be given to you, each member of the United States Intelligence Board, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Bundy.

Within CIA the Deputy Director (Intelligence) and the Office of National Estimates are at work evaluating the matters raised by Mr. McCone and we will keep you advised.

Faithfully yours,

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

Attachment

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

15 JAN 1997

CIA

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Attach 13

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From McCone to Carter (13 February 1963)

1. I am growing increasingly concerned over Soviet intentions in Cuba. The agent report of deep verticle wells, three to four meters in diameter in Pinar del Rio is not satisfactorily answered by negative surface indications or the absence of spoils as quantities of earth involved could be trucked away and hidden from view and other signs of workings could be easily camouflaged. I therefore feel we cannot dismiss this possibility on the basis of negative photographic interpretation and analysis.

*subject in report
referred to 1/31
report of
Soviet agent
7 wells 3-4
m in diam
last seen
by trees &
covered by
camouflage*

2. Several recent events contribute to my growing concern over the possibility of reintroduction of an offensive capability in Cuba and I wish the entire Intelligence Community to intensify efforts to satisfactorily answer this question. In addition to reports mentioned, the receipt of two shiploads of unexplained military cargo and the precipitous discharging of the cargos by military personnel, together with news of a possible third cargo, is to me an ominous sign. In addition Khrushchev's false and absolutely misleading statement that his technicians were in Cuba to train Cubans is inconsistent with the facts as were his and Dobrynin's statements prior to the October crisis.

3. Furthermore, the disarmament proposals meeting by the Soviets in Geneva yesterday were so obviously unacceptable to the West (as they have been on numerous occasions during the past ten years) that I believe they were stated as a justification for a Soviet offensive weapons base in Cuba than for any other purpose. Certainly they were not advanced for the purpose of serious negotiation.

4. In view of all of the above, I am inclined to the view that it is highly dangerous for the Intelligence Community or spokesmen for the Government to take a categoric position concerning the possible existence or future clandestine development of an offensive threat and am inclined to place greater emphasis on my statement that this can only be proven by penetrating and continuing on-site inspection.

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