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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

USE OF SOVIET LARGE HATCH SHIPS IN THE CUBAN TRADE

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Research and Reports

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Research and Reports
25 November 1964

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Use of Soviet Large Hatch Ships
in the Cuban Trade

1. As a major part of its modernization programs the Soviet merchant fleet has made substantial additions of large hatch dry cargo ships since 1961. Large hatch ships have design features which facilitate cargo handling and the transport of large and heavy industrial and agricultural machinery. These ships have been used by the USSR on all of its major trade routes including the Cuban trade. The use of large hatch ships in the Cuban trade has been particularly significant because of their role in the introduction of offensive weapons and missiles in 1962. If such weapons were to be reintroduced in Cuba they would undoubtedly be carried in large hatch ships.

2. The Soviet merchant fleet has seven classes of vessels classified as large hatch ships--the Beloretsk, Krasnograd, Murom, Omsk, Poltava/Perekop, Simferopol, and Vyborg classes. This memorandum will exclude discussion of the 5 ships of the Beloretsk class and the 7 ships of the Simferopol class since they do not have the minimum hatch size--60 feet--deemed necessary for the concealed transport of MRBM and larger missiles.

3. The inventory of ships in the five classes under analysis has grown impressively since 1961 (see Table I). The inventory consisted of 3 ships at the end of 1961; 7 ships at the end of 1962; 19 ships at the end of 1963; and will total 40 ships at the end of 1964. At least 27 large hatch ships will be delivered during 1965 and orders have been placed for 22 ships of the Krasnograd class during the next plan period (1966-1970).

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4. Large hatch ships have continued to move in the Cuban trade since the lifting of the US quarantine on 22 November 1962. Arrival of large hatch ships since that date total 93, as shown in the attached Figure. A detailed listing of large hatch ship arrivals and the cargoes they carried through November 1964 is shown in Table II.

5. These ships made 34 trips to Cuba in 1963, accounting for 15 percent of the 225 calls made by Soviet dry cargo ships in that year. In 1964, through November, large hatch ships will have made an estimated 54 trips to Cuba, accounting for about 23 percent of the total calls by Soviet dry cargo ships in the same period. This increase in the use of large hatch ships in the Cuban trade is consistent with the increasing numbers of large hatch ships made available in the past two years. The increased use of these ships is also consistent with the rational usage of shipping for the substantial long-haul movements of large, heavy industrial and agricultural machinery in a trade denied substantial amounts of world shipping tonnage.

6. The movement of large hatch ships indicates that they have not been assigned any unique role in the transport of military cargoes to Cuba in 1964. Military shipments, in fact, have declined during the year and now consist principally of maintenance deliveries.

maintenance deliveries of Soviet military cargoes to Cuba will now probably be mixed with normal commercial cargoes.

7. The large hatch ships currently in the Cuban trade have for the most part carried the volume and type of cargoes.

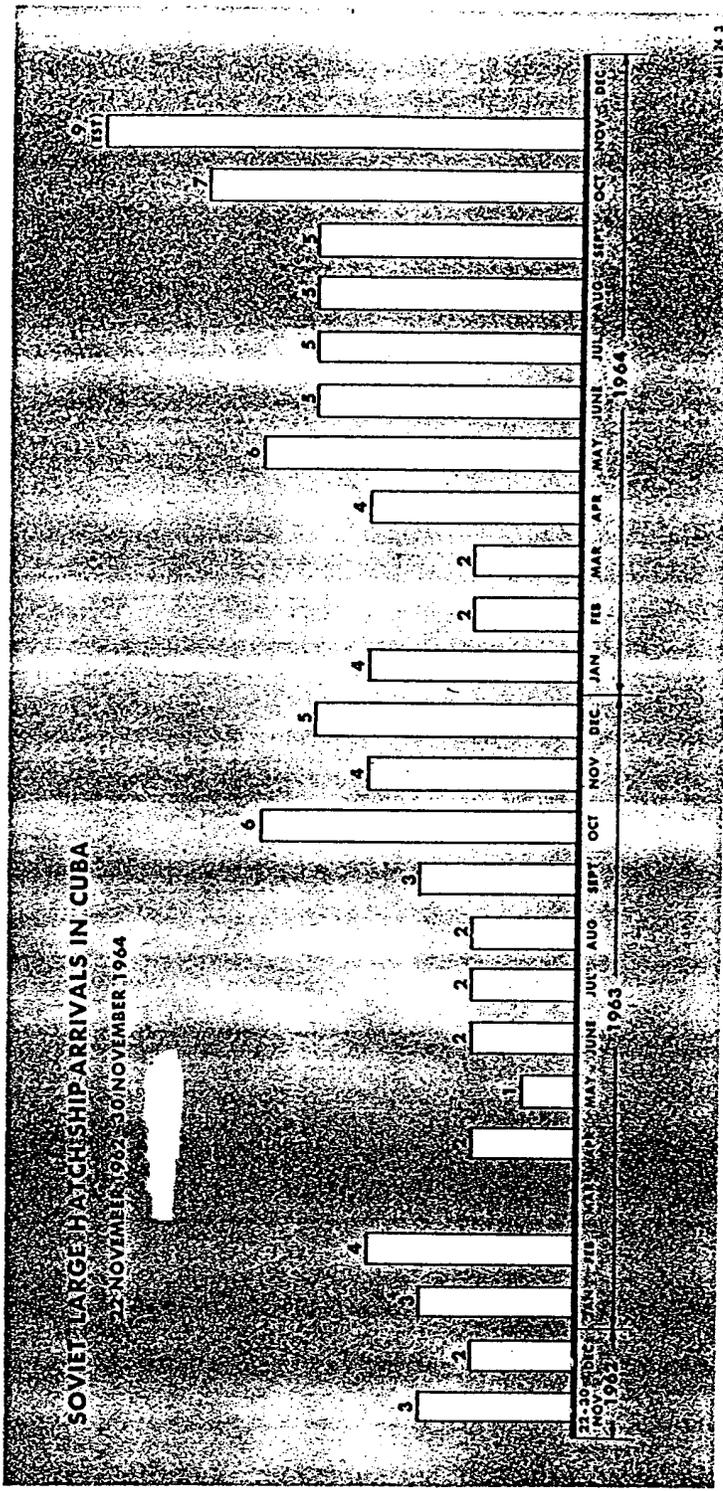
deliveries.

These ships are engaged in basically routine trade operations. During the 1962 military build-up, the Soviet ships known to carry military cargoes were loaded to less than 20 percent of their gross tonnage. During 1964 the large hatch ships in the Cuban trade delivered cargo tonnage amounting to over 57 percent of the gross tonnage of the shipping involved.

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SOVIET LARGE HATCHSHIP ARRIVALS IN CUBA

21-30 NOVEMBER 1963 30 NOVEMBER 1964



10. The cargo data available¹ has been sufficient for us to feel reasonably confident about our estimates of cargoes delivered to Cuba by Soviet large hatch ships.

(See Tables)

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TABLE I

Deliveries of Large Hatch Ships to the Soviet Merchant Fleet

Class (GRT)	1961		1962		1963		1964 Est.	
	Name (month)	Name (month)	Name (month)	Name (month)	Name (month)	Name (month)	Name (month)	
Krasnograd (9000)	Krasnograd (Dec)	Karachaevsk (Oct)	Kaspijsk (Oct)	Klin (May)	Krasnodon (Sep)	Krasnokamsk (Apr)	Krasnouprav'sk (Jun)	
		Kasimov (Oct)	Krasnoufimsk (Dec)	Krasnodon (Sep)	Krasnokamsk (Apr)	Krasnouprav'sk (Jun)	Krasnoye Selo (Oct)	
		Kimovsk (Jul)	Kalimnabad (Jun)	Krasnouprav'sk (Jun)	Krasnouprav'sk (Jun)	Krasnoye Selo (Oct)	Kommunarsk (Dec)*	
<u>Murom (8430)</u>	Omsk (Dec)	Orenburg (Mar)	Orskhovo (Oct)	Murom (Mar)	Matsseka (Dec)*	Minsk (Aug)	Morshansk (Oct)	
		Okhotsk (Jul)	Orasha (Nov)	Minsk (Aug)	Morshansk (Oct)	Mozdok (May)	Mozhaysk (Dec)*	
Poltava (9,500)	Poltava (Dec)	Polotsk (Sep/Oct)	Perchop** (Dec)	Otrodonoe (Mar)	Otsrogzhsk (Nov)	Predniprovs'k (Aug)**	Bryansk Rabochi (Oct)**	
		Bezhtsa** (Dec)	Bezhtsa** (Dec)	Otsrogzhsk (Nov)	Predniprovs'k (Aug)**	Bryansk Rabochi (Oct)**	Vyatka (Oct)	
Vyborg (9,000)	Vyborg (Dec)	Vyborg (Dec)	Vyborg (Dec)	Vyazma (May)	Velikiye Lukki (Jul)			

* This column includes estimated deliveries for 1964. Ships marked with an asterisk are expected to be delivered in December.

** Also designated as the Perchop class, a modification of the Poltava class.

TABLE I
SOVIET LARGE HATCH SHIP ARRIVALS IN CUBA, 1964

<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>PORT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>January</u> Kalininabad	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,030 tons including: 486 tons metals; 120 tons chemicals; 3,424 tons general cargo - including bull-dozers and tractors.
Karachaevo- Cherkassiya	Havana	Cargo totalling 6,223 tons including: 15 tons chemicals; 505 tons food; 304 tons metal; 945 tons identified general cargo; and 4,454 tons unidentified.
Kimovsk	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,100 tons (est.) of which 1,085 tons identified general cargo; 734 tons metal; 4 tons chemicals; and 2,277 tons unidentified general cargo.
Krasnoufimsk	Havana	Cargo totalling 3,060 tons including: 552 tons chemicals; 829 tons fertilizer; 1,115 tons general and 564 tons metal.
<u>February</u> Kaspisk	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,250 tons including: 1,590 tons foodstuffs; 989 tons fertilizer; 29 tons metal; 246 tons chemicals; and 1,396 tons general.
Vyborg	Meriel	Cargo totalling 8,254 tons including: 363 tons general (including SAM Equipment); 1,797 tons oats; and 6,094 tons fertilizer.

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SOVIET LARGE HATCH SHIP ARRIVALS IN CUBA, 1964 (Continued)

<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>PORT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>March</u> Kalininabad	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,662 tons including 579 tons ammonium sulfate and 4,083 tons general cargo for various projects.
Krasnograd	Havana	Cargo totalling 3,949 tons including: 1,251 tons metal products; 16 tons chemicals; and 2,682 tons general.
<u>April</u> Kanev	Matiel	Cargo totalling 5,661 tons including: 209 tons chemicals; 602 tons fertilizer; 336 tons food; 2,030 tons woodpulp; 2,484 tons general (equipment for projects; trucks; tractors and autos).
Kasimov	Havana	Cargo totalling 6,784 tons including: 51 tons food; 123 tons chemicals; 4 tons jute; 5,415 tons woodpulp and 1,191 tons general of which 870 is unidentified.
Kimovsk	Havana	Cargo totalling 3,870 tons including: 205 tons chemicals; 120 tons metal; 3,545 tons general cargo (trucks, tractors and equipment).
Vyborg	Havana	Cargo totalling 10,698 tons wheat.
<u>May</u> Karachaevov- Cherkassiya	Havana	In ballast.
Klin	Santiago	Cargo totalling 4,923 tons including: 45 tons food; 325 tons plywood; 933 tons metal and 3,620 general industrial cargo.

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SOVIET LARGE HATCH SHIP ARRIVALS IN CUBA, 1964 (Continued)

	<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>PORT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>May</u> Kovrov	11 May	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,388 tons including: 542 tons ammonium nitrate; 250 tons food; 18 tons chemicals; 1,132 tons identified general and 2,437 tons unidentified.
Krasnograd	24 May	Jucaro	In ballast.
Krasnokamsk	5 May	Havana	Cargo estimated to total 7,850 tons including: 2,871 tons caustic soda; 4,979 tons general (Paper, industrial equipment, motor vehicles and tractors).
Krasnoufimsk	26 May	Guayabal	In ballast.
<u>June</u> Klmovsk	16 June	Havana	Cargo totalling 4,588 tons including: 201 tons food; 1,386 tons metal and products; 3,001 tons general cargo (primarily for various projects).
Mozdok	24 June	Antilla	In ballast.
Poltava	1 June	Matanzas	Cargo totalling 2,140 tons military goods-- including 23 MIG-17 aircraft.
Vyazma	14 June	Havana	Cargo totalling 7,284 tons including: 2,703 tons food; 17 tons chemicals; 589 tons metal products; 482 tons jute bags; 3,493 tons general.
Vyborg	25 June	Havana	Cargo totalling 3,270 tons including: 1,901 tons paper; 1,369 tons general, of which 773 tons trucks and tractors.

SOVIET LARGE HATCH SHIP ARRIVALS IN CUBA, 1964 (Continued)

<u>DATE OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>PORT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
November (est): Karachaevo- Cherkassiya	Havana	Cargo totalling 8,065 tons including: 4,199 tons foodstuffs and 3,866 tons unidentified cargo.
30 November (est)	Havana	Cargo totalling 8,065 tons including: 4,199 tons foodstuffs and 3,866 tons unidentified cargo.
Kasimov	Havana	Cargo totaling 3,410 tons including: 3,000 tons potatoes; 46 KSP-1 combines (230 tons) and 180 tons industrial equipment and machinery.
11 November	Havana	Cargo totaling 3,410 tons including: 3,000 tons potatoes; 46 KSP-1 combines (230 tons) and 180 tons industrial equipment and machinery.
Kaspijsk	Havana	Cargo totalling 5,316 tons including: 1,068 tons potatoes; 1,485 ammonium sulfate; 1,529 tons general cargo; 138 tons vehicles; 45 tons combines; 189 tons rails; 563 tons tin and 116 tons lathes and trucks.
1 November	Havana	Cargo totalling 5,316 tons including: 1,068 tons potatoes; 1,485 ammonium sulfate; 1,529 tons general cargo; 138 tons vehicles; 45 tons combines; 189 tons rails; 563 tons tin and 116 tons lathes and trucks.
Krasnograd	Havana	Cargo totalling 5,285 tons including: 5,124 tons coke; 11 tons chemicals; 150 tons trucks, tractors and combines.
26 November (est)	Havana	Cargo totalling 5,285 tons including: 5,124 tons coke; 11 tons chemicals; 150 tons trucks, tractors and combines.
Minsk	Havana	Cargo totalling 10,571 tons including: 8,903 tons foodstuffs; 1,338 tons metal products; 165 tons equipment; 165 tons trawlers.
17 November	Havana	Cargo totalling 10,571 tons including: 8,903 tons foodstuffs; 1,338 tons metal products; 165 tons equipment; 165 tons trawlers.
Morshansk	Santiago	Cargo totalling 4,815 tons including: 2,838 tons potatoes; 1,203 tons paper; 773 tons general industrial goods.
17 November	Santiago	Cargo totalling 4,815 tons including: 2,838 tons potatoes; 1,203 tons paper; 773 tons general industrial goods.
Otradnoe	Havana	Cargo totalling 9,016 tons including: 8,202 tons lumber; 768 tons potatoes; 46 tons jute bags.
10 November	Havana	Cargo totalling 9,016 tons including: 8,202 tons lumber; 768 tons potatoes; 46 tons jute bags.
Polotsk	Nuevitas	Cargo totalling 2,866 tons general including equipment for various projects, trucks, tractors, combines, and 368 tons foodstuffs.
19 November	Nuevitas	Cargo totalling 2,866 tons general including equipment for various projects, trucks, tractors, combines, and 368 tons foodstuffs.