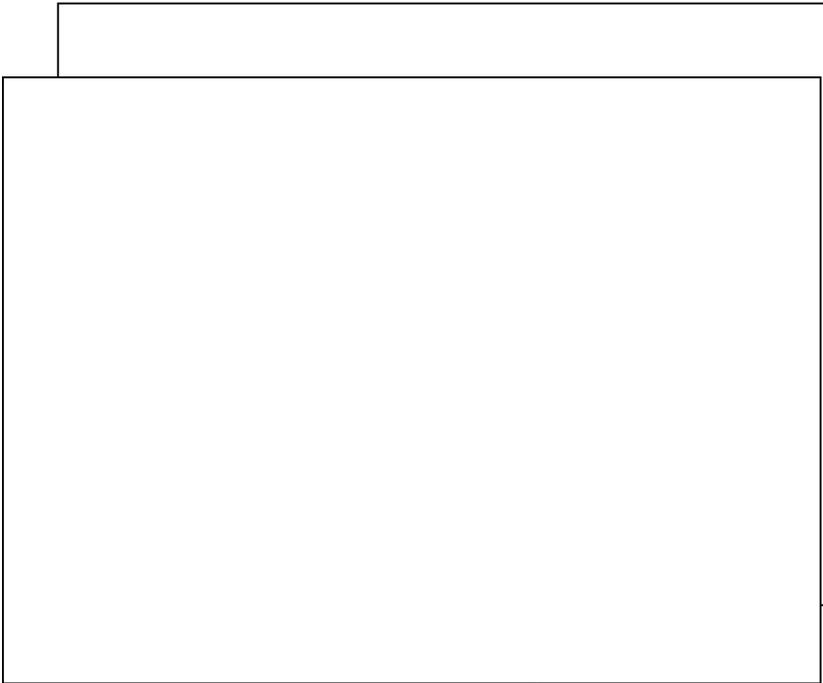


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Soviet Military Deliveries to Cuba in 1974



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~~Secret~~ [redacted]

Soviet Military Deliveries
To Cuba in 1974

SUMMARY

1. The USSR maintained a moderate level of arms deliveries to Cuba in 1974. Seven Soviet ships delivered some 11,000 metric tons of military equipment, somewhat below last year's shipments, but comparable with the annual range of 10,000 to 12,500 tons noted since 1968. The level of deliveries and the types of equipment supplied suggest that the Soviets continue to be committed only to a minimum replacement program.

2. No new weapons systems are known to have been introduced in 1974, but the variety of equipment supplied was greater than in past years. Aircraft deliveries included additional MIG-21J fighters and possibly a newer version of the MIG-21 trainer. Other shipments included T-34 tanks, an Osa-class guided missile patrol boat, and the first identified delivery of SS-N-2 missiles in more than three years.

Note: Comments and queries regarding this publication are welcomed. They may be directed to [redacted] the Office of Economic Research, [redacted]

~~Secret~~ [redacted]

DISCUSSION

3. Soviet military shipments to Cuba in 1974 began in January with the arrival of the Dmitriy Gulya and ended on 22 November with one of the USSR's most frequent arms carriers, the Leninskiy Komsomol. Five other Soviet ships transported arms to Cuba during the year (see the Appendix).

4. The 11,000 tons delivered was 1,600 tons below 1973 but is comparable with the general level of deliveries in each of the past five years (see the table). Six of the seven ships carried exclusively military cargoes. The Nikolay Ananov transported commercial cargo with military equipment on deck. As in the past, seaborne shipments of military equipment to Cuba originated solely in the USSR. No major arms deliveries are known to have arrived in Cuba by air since the 1962 missile crisis, although a small amount of specialty spare parts is probably carried on Aeroflot's scheduled services between Moscow and Havana.

Pattern of Deliveries

5. The voyage profiles of ships carrying military equipment to Cuba in 1974 were clouded in the secrecy characteristic of all Soviet arms deliveries. [redacted]



6. [redacted] six of the seven ships [redacted] probably loaded at Nikolayev, the primary Soviet Black Sea port for loading military equipment. It is likely the seventh ship, the Nikolay Ananov, actually loaded the commercial portion of its cargo at Ilichevsk -- the declared port of [redacted] -- and then topped off in the Nikolayev area. [redacted] [redacted] three of these ships made intermediate stops in the Mediterranean -- two at Latakia and one at Algiers -- prior to sailing for Cuba. The remaining ship, the mixed cargo Nikolay Ananov, [redacted] sailed nonstop for Cuba.

Soviet Seaborne Military Deliveries
To Cuba

	Number of Ships	Thousand Metric Tons
1962 ¹	125	250.0 ²
1963	10	38.7
1964	7	17.5
1965	5	10.8
1966	10	21.4
1967	20	41.1
1968	3	6.2
1969	7	11.5
1970	8	11.3
1971	9	12.1
1972	7	10.0
1973	5	12.6
1974	7	11.0

-
1. Mid-July to mid-October.
 2. Estimated.

7. Mariel, 40 miles west of Havana, remained Cuba's primary port for deliveries of military equipment. Security is tight and access to the port is restricted at all times. Although military personnel help with offloading operations, a special group of some 40 civilian stevedores has charge of the pier-side operations. Four of the seven arms carriers in 1974 offloaded solely at Mariel. Of the remaining three, two called initially at Havana and then at Mariel and the third reversed these ports of call.

Composition of Shipments

8. Continuing past patterns of Soviet military deliveries, the bulk of military deliveries in 1974 consisted of small arms, ammunition, communications equipment, and assorted military trucks and jeeps. In addition to these items, Cuba received a wide variety of other items such as aircraft, patrol boats, SS-N-2 missiles, SA-2 missile systems equipment, and T-34 tanks.

Aircraft

9. Fourteen aircraft were delivered to Cuba in 1974, of which nine were additional MIG-21J fighters and five are thought to be a newer version of the MIG-21 trainer. Six fighters were carried as deck cargo on the Svetlogorsk, which arrived in Cuba on 10 May, and three were delivered by the Nikolay Ananov, which arrived in mid-September. These deliveries, less one confirmed crash in the fall, bring Cuba's current inventory of MIG-21s to 87, including 23 of the J models.

10. The five remaining aircraft were carried as deck cargo on the Fizik Vavilov, which arrived in Cuba on 7 November.

those used for Soviet trainers and those currently being used for MIG-17s. On balance, the aircraft probably are trainers that will replace five delivered to Cuba in 1966.

Patrol Boats

11. One Osa-class guided missile patrol boat was delivered to Cuba in January 1974, bringing the Cuban Navy's inventory of patrol craft using the SS-N-2 missile to 18 Komars and 5 Osas. It is suspected that an unspecified number of Komars -- perhaps as many as four -- have been cannibalized. All these patrol craft are stationed at

the Cabanas naval facility some 40 miles west of Havana. Finally, a small Zhuk-class patrol craft arrived in mid-1974 [redacted] on the Yuri Gagarin, the second in Cuba's inventory.

Styx Missiles

12. Six SS-N-2 [redacted] with six SS-N-2 missiles were observed as [redacted] Fizik Vavilov on 7 November. The next day, three [redacted] were observed [redacted], with the remaining three already removed from the area. The delivery of these missiles probably reflects additions to depleted stocks, since a series of test firings occurred about a month before the Fizik Vavilov delivery.

13. Equipment associated with the SA-2 missile system arrived in August [redacted] on the Khirug Vishnevskiy (59 oxidizer tanks) and on the Bela Kun (communication vans). In addition, [redacted] reported that the Dmitriy Gulya had a hold cargo of 26 T-34 tanks and an unspecified number [redacted]

Outlook

14. Although additional fighter aircraft and Osa deliveries may occur later in the year, we expect no appreciable change in the overall level of military shipments in 1975. There is no evidence of a shift in Soviet policy which, since 1968, has emphasized replacement of expended munitions, destroyed or obsolescent aircraft, and worn out equipment in the Cuban armed forces. .

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

APPENDIX

SOVIET SEABORNE MILITARY DELIVERIES TO CUBA¹
1974

Ship Name	Arrival Date	Port	Cargo ² (Metric Tons)	Remarks
Dmitriy Gulya (10,109 GRT ³)	20 Jan	Mariel	2,431	Deck Cargo: none
Svetlogorsk (8,874 GRT)	21-22 Apr	Latakia	1,000	Deck Cargo: initially included [redacted] [redacted]
	10-11 May	Mariel	1,000	
	12-13 May	Havana		
Khirug Vishnevskiy (11,206 GRT)	12-13 Aug	Mariel	3,050	Deck Cargo: 59 SAM-associated oxidizer tanks.
Bela Kun (10,380 GRT)	15-16 Aug	Mariel	1,237	Deck Cargo: three flat-top shop van trucks and one round-top shop van truck.
Nikolay Ananov (11,750 GRT)	16-17 Sep	Havana	9,099 (commercial)	Deck Cargo: three boatnosed [redacted] trucks and at least two tractor trucks. The hold cargo probably included a small quantity of military equipment in the tween-deck area. The major portion of the hold cargo, however, consisted of commercial goods, including at least 6,796 tons of fertilizer.
		Mariel	500 (military)	
Fizik Vavilov (11,094 GRT)	22-27 Oct	Algiers	1,249	Deck Cargo: [redacted] Photography of 1 November confirmed that the deck cargo was intact subsequent to the stop in Algeria.
	7 Nov	Havana	1,249	
	8 Nov	Mariel		
Leninskiy Komsomol (11,094 GRT)	4-6 Nov	Latakia	1,550	Deck Cargo: initially included six probable [redacted] and three truck-mounted cranes. The deck cargo and an unspecified amount of hold cargo is believed to have been offloaded in Syria.
	22-24 Nov	Mariel	1,550	

1. Excluding small amounts of military support items such as trucks, radio equipment, cement, and tires consigned to the Ministry of Defense (Minfar) that were carried with Soviet commercial shipment and a few shipments of explosives not specifically consigned to Minfar that could be used for either commercial or military purposes. Also excluded is an Osa-class guided missile patrol boat which was towed by a Soviet oceangoing tug, *Gordy*, arriving in Cuba in January and a Zhuk-class patrol craft carried as deck cargo on the *Yuri Gagarin*, arriving in Cuba in mid-July.
2. Tonnages on the *Svetlogorsk*, *Nikolay Ananov*, and *Leninskiy Komsomol*, are estimates.
3. Gross Register Tons.

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]