

~~SECRET~~

27 February 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Forecast Weather Over Cuba and Missions
Status, 5 September-14 October 1962

1. It should be noted that mission planning and Go-No Go decisions for high altitude reconnaissance missions over Cuba had to be based on weather forecasts for target areas as much as 48 hours in advance of take-off time. These initial alert weather briefings were revised and updated at mission planning time about 12 hours before take-off and again at Go-No Go time about 4 hours before take-off. Review of these forecasts has shown them to have been 85% accurate during this period.

2. Weather forecasts used in connection with mission planning are provided by the Global Weather Central at SAC Headquarters, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Terms used to describe weather conditions are defined as follows: good - clear to 1/4 cloud cover; poor - 3/8 to 1/2 cloud cover; bad - 5/8 to total cloud cover.

3. The following tabulation shows forecast weather in correlation with mission activity:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weather Forecast</u>	<u>Mission Status</u>
5 September	West-poor Central-good East-poor	Mission flown over Banes and eastern two-thirds of the island.
6 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
7 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	Mission planned for South-east Cuba cancelled because of poor weather.
8 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2008

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

9 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
10 September	Northeast-good Rest-poor to bad	
11 September	West-poor Central-small area good East-poor	
12 September	West-poor Central-good East-bad	
13 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
14 September	South-Central- poor Rest-bad	
15 September	East-good Rest-poor to bad	
16 September	West-good Central and East-poor	Mission alerted- delayed by poor weather over Eastern Cuba
17 September	Eastern half- poor Western half- good	Mission flown to cover Isle of Pines, weather went bad during flight- target cloud covered
18 September	West-poor Central-good East-bad	
19 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
20 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	

-2-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

21 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
22 September	Southeast-good Rest-poor to bad	Mission alerted to Go-No Go for Eastern Cuba cancelled because of poor weather over target
23 September	Southeast-good Rest-poor to bad	
24 September	All Cuba-poor to bad	
25 September	Southeast-good Rest-poor to bad	Mission alerted for Banes
26 September	West-good Central-poor East-good	Mission flown over Southeast Cuba
27 September	West-good Rest-poor to bad	
28 September	West-poor Rest-good	Mission alerted for Northeast coast delayed when weather went bad East of 76 West
29 September	West-good Central-good East-poor	Mission cancelled; another mission flown over Isle of Pines
30 September	West-poor Central-good East-poor to bad	
1 October	West-poor Central-good East-poor	Two missions alerted
2 October	West-poor Central-good East-poor to bad	Both missions cancel- led 12 hours before take-off time

-3-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3 October	West-poor to bad Central-good East-poor to bad	Mission alerted
4 October	Western half-poor to bad Eastern half-good	
5 October	Southeast-good Rest-poor to bad	Missions flown over South coast
6 October	Western half-poor Eastern half-good	Mission flown-North- east coast but aborted for mechanical reasons
7 October	All Cuba-good	Mission flown-North- east coast
8 October	No weather check	Aircraft not in commission
9 October	No weather check	Aircraft not in commission
10 October	West-poor Central-poor East-good	
11 October	West-poor Central-poor East-good	
12 October	West-poor Central-poor East-good	
13 October	West-poor to bad Central-poor to bad East-good	Mission alerted
14 October	West-good Southeast-good Rest-poor	Mission flown-found MRBMs

-4-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

4. During this period missions were not flown unless weather was good (1/4 cloud cover or less) at time of Go-No Go decision 4 hours before take-off. Between 5 September and 14 October, 5 scheduled missions were cancelled because of bad weather over areas of desired coverage, and one other mission was flown but found its target obscured. Between 5 September and 14 October, poor to bad weather prevailed over target areas in Cuba for 30 of 40 days.

~~SECRET~~