

CBS EVENING NEWS

9 June 1983

U.S./USSR/
SOVIET
SUBMARINE

RATHER: In Washington, CBS News has learned that Pentagon analysts are now very concerned about what a U.S. satellite passing over the Soviet Union saw the other day. David Martin explains.

MARTIN: The Pentagon has received a nasty surprise, the unanticipated launching of a new model Soviet nuclear-powered submarine. The new submarine was spotted by an American satellite within the past few days as it passed over the Soviet ship-building complex at Leningrad. The shipyard is the same one that has been turning out copies of the Alpha-class submarine which runs so deep and fast it can outrun American torpedoes. U.S. intelligence had assumed that the work going on in a covered construction area like this one was another Alpha sub, so Naval experts were stunned when a submarine nearly 50 feet longer than the Alpha slipped into the water. The added length could give the new sub more room to carry weapons or to house a power plant that could propel it even faster than the 50-mile-per-hour speed of the Alpha. One new Soviet submarine does not by itself tip the undersea balance of power. The Navy remains confident that its submarines are superior and that it still holds a decisive edge in anti-submarine warfare. The Navy is concerned that a new class of Soviet submarines could suddenly be launched without any warning, that one was in the works. That raises the question of what other Soviet weapons are under construction that the U.S. doesn't know about. David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.

CBS EVENING NEWS

9 June 1983

CUBA/
SOVIET TROOPS

RATHER: Pentagon sources have told correspondent David Martin that late last month between 1,500 and 1,700 more Soviet troops arrived in Cuba where a 2,600-man Soviet combat brigade is already deployed. Martin reports that it's unclear if the new troops are a permanent reinforcement or are in Cuba for maneuvers with the combat brigade.

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
9 June 1983

CUBA/
SOVIET TROOPS

BRINKLEY: Good evening. U.S. intelligence says the Soviet Union is substantially increasing its military forces in Cuba. For what reason, nobody knows. A report on this from ABC's John McWethy at the Pentagon.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources tell ABC News that the number of Soviet combat troops in Cuba has risen sharply in the last few months. The Russians already have a combat brigade in Cuba of 2,600 to 3,000 men. Sources say since early April another 1,500 combat troops have arrived. It was assumed that these forces were part of a normal seasonal rotation that would leave Cuba after completing a military exercise which is now underway. In the last few days, however, intelligence sources report that another 1,700 troops have arrived from the Soviet Union by ship, troops which are not participating in the joint Cuban-Russian military exercises. Analysts are puzzled and concerned by these latest reports. The normal rotation of troops in the past has involved only half as many rotation forces. Sources fear what they are seeing now is a permanent buildup of Russian troop strength in Cuba, which could plunge the U.S., Cuba, and the Soviet Union into a major confrontation.

U.S./
CENTRAL AMERICA

Intelligence sources also tell ABC News that the U.S. is sharply stepping up aerial surveillance all over Central America. For the first time, F-4c reconnaissance planes flying out of Panama will be used over Honduras along the Nicaraguan boarder. They will work in concert with C-130 gunships also flying out of Panama. These planes have night vision infrared-type television cameras aboard. And flying from Honduras itself, the U.S. will increase flights of small Army listening aircraft. The planes specialize in intercepting and locating low-powered radio transmissions used by Nicaraguan gunrunners. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.