

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

SC No. 02169/63

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
27 February 1963

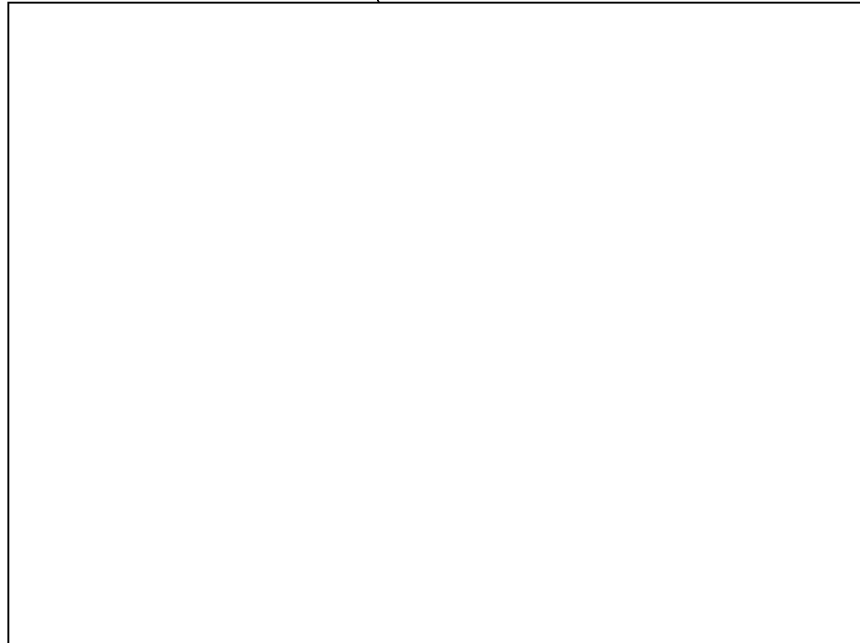
APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: NOV 2004

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Indications of the Transfer of SAM Sites  
in Cuba from Soviet to Cuban control

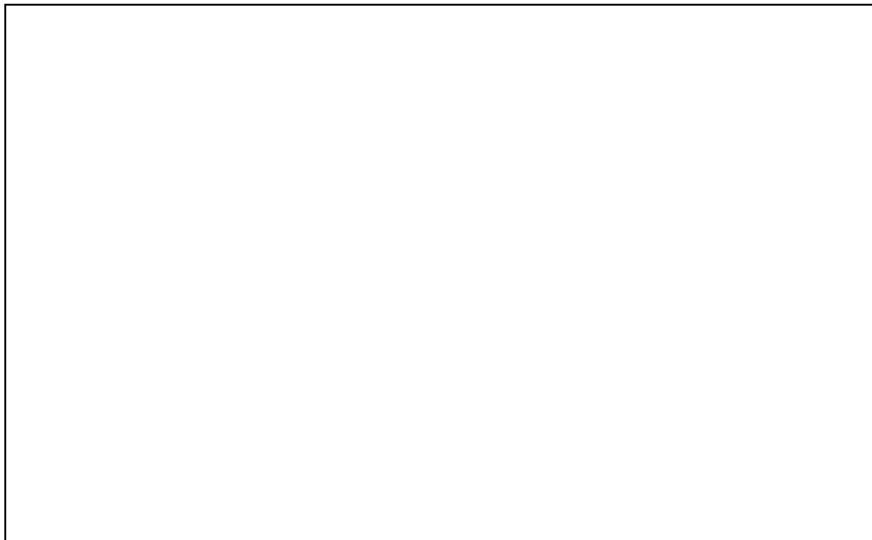
1. We have no indications that any SAM sites have been turned over to Cubans yet. Our information is too scanty at this time to permit a conclusive judgment on the timing of such a transfer. We believe that SAM training for Cubans is under way, although we have little direct evidence as to when such training may have begun. A number of reports, [redacted] point to March 1963 as the time when a some kind of change related to [redacted] SAM sites is likely.

2. Following are summaries of the significant intelligence, arranged in chronological order, we have received indicating that transfer of the SAM sites to the Cubans is planned:



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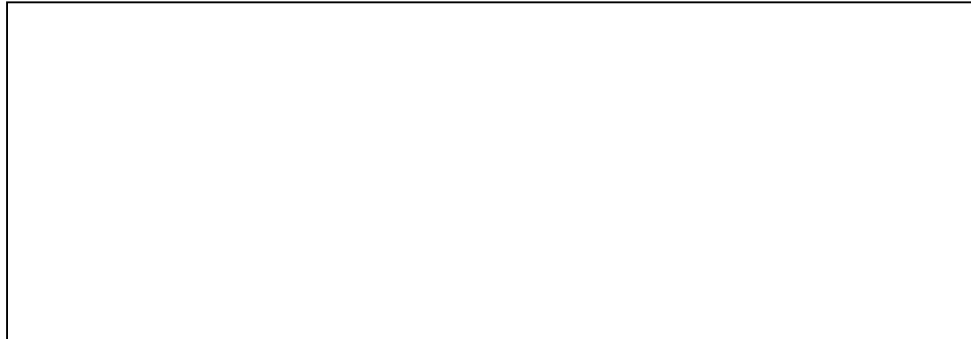
- d. On 8 January, a SAM transporter with a guideline missile was driven in a parade in Havana by Cuban personnel. A cruise missile transporter was also driven by Cubans in this parade. Since no FROG equipment was present, the implication might be that the SAM and cruise missiles had or were to become part of the Cuban military inventory.
- e. In mid-January, a source, whose information had previously proven not accurate, relayed a report that on 1 March the Cuban military would activate an "all out" anti-aircraft effort to clear Cuban skies of unidentified aircraft. An order to this effect was said to have been circulated as of 17 January.



- g. In mid-February, Joaquin Ordoqui, chief of Cuban army logistics, was quoted as stating that as of early February the Soviets were instructing Cubans in the operation of SAMs. When Cubans had become proficient, the Soviets would be withdrawn and the Cuban government would then have the sole right to decide when to use these weapons. The Cubans had agreed with the Soviets not to use the weapons against US reconnaissance flights.

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- h. In his speech of 22-23 February, Fidel Castro implied that Cuban technicians were needed to "manage" SAM systems. He said, "We need a good technician to manage a surface-to-air missile, but at the same time we take him out of school. No, it hurts to lose a good technician. What to do?"



3. In a previous memorandum, we have pointed out that if training of Cubans began sometime in November 1962, the normal training cycle used by the Soviet forces would lead us to expect Cuban units to begin to appear at established SAM sites in March or April 1963. However, if Cubans received SAM training in the USSR or other bloc countries earlier in 1962, they could already have begun to replace Soviet units.

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