



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CIA Documents on the

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

1962

Editor

Mary S. McAuliffe

History Staff

Central Intelligence Agency

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Foreword

The Central Intelligence Agency is pleased to declassify and publish this collection of documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis, as the First Intelligence History Symposium marks the thirtieth anniversary of that event. We hope that both the Symposium and this volume will help fill the large gaps in information previously available on the role of intelligence in this crisis. The volume and Symposium are both products of CIA's new program of openness, which Robert Gates, Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), announced in his speech to the Oklahoma Press Association last February.

To help carry out this openness program, the Center for the Study of Intelligence, CIA's focal point for research and publication on intelligence since 1975, has been reorganized, expanded in size and mission, and placed in the Office of the DCI. The Center now includes the CIA History Staff, first formed in 1951, and a new Historical Review Group, which has increased both the scope and pace of the program to declassify historical records that DCI William Casey established in 1985.

Dr. Mary S. McAuliffe, Deputy Chief of the History Staff, has located and compiled the documents in this collection. Dr. McAuliffe, who has recently completed a study of John A. McCone's tenure as DCI, graduated from Principia College, took a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland, and taught at Iowa State University before joining CIA and the History Staff in 1986. She is the author of *Crisis on the Left: Cold War Politics and American Liberals, 1947-1954* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1978).

The Historical Review Group declassified the documents that Dr. McAuliffe selected, using new guidelines prepared by a special CIA task force and approved by the DCI last spring. We are especially grateful to the principal reviewer who handled this difficult process—including coordination with other departments and agencies—with great skill and dispatch. We should also acknowledge the invaluable help of our History Assistant, Ms. Diane Marvin, and of the members of the Directorate of Intelligence's Design Center and Publication Center, and of the Directorate of Administration's Printing and Photography Group, who prepared and produced this book with remarkable speed and virtuosity.

A number of documents in this collection have been excerpted, some to reduce their length, and others to speed the declassification of missile crisis information by omitting irrelevant material. When the Historical Review Group systematically reviews these and other missile crisis records for declassification and release to the National Archives, we expect that most of the material omitted for reasons of length or relevance in our published excerpts will be declassified and made available to the public.

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, History Staff

11 September 1992

CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

Preface

The collection in this volume includes many of CIA's most important documents on the Cuban missile crisis. It contains the "honeymoon cables" that Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) John A. McCone sent to Headquarters from France a month before the missile crisis, as well as McCone's notes taken during the National Security Council Executive Committee meetings at the height of the crisis. It also includes intelligence memorandums and estimates, briefing papers, Cuban refugee reports, and memorandums on Operation MONGOOSE, the clandestine program aimed at destabilizing the Castro regime. Many of the evaluations of the missile threat contained here draw upon IRONBARK material, whose source was Soviet Col. Oleg Penkovsky.

To the degree possible, the documents in this volume are organized according to the date of subject matter, so that a February 1963 document discussing a September 1962 event will appear among September 1962 documents. In general, support documents follow documents that summarize a sequence of events.

To conserve space and speed declassification, excerpts have been taken from some of the lengthier entries. In some cases, the summary or conclusion section of a document has been excerpted, while in others, material on topics unrelated to Cuba or the missile crisis has been omitted. All such instances have been noted in the Contents list and in the documents' headings.

All the documents in this volume have been subject to declassification review, and portions of some have been deleted for security reasons.

In the weeks immediately preceding the missile crisis, DCI McCone was frequently out of town. During these times, his Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (DDCI), Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter, served as Acting Director. McCone was away from Washington on his honeymoon in France from the evening of 23 August through 23 September 1962. He left for Los Angeles on business on the evening of 11 October 1962, coming back late on 14 October. He returned to the West Coast on the afternoon of 15 October, immediately following news of the death of his stepson. The discovery of missiles in Cuba brought him back to Washington on the evening of 16 October, where he remained for the rest of the crisis.

It should be noted that these documents, many of them written hastily during a time of national emergency, contain occasional errors. McCone's 19 October 1962 memorandum for the file (Document 63), for example, confuses the days of the week, although not the dates, of the first crisis meetings that he attended.

Much has been written on the missile crisis during the 30 years that have elapsed since those 13 days in October, but the unavailability of classified material has left many questions still unanswered. The CIA History Staff hopes that the publication of this volume, and the further releases that follow, will make possible a more complete understanding of this complex and deeply troubling event.

Mary S. McAuliffe
Deputy Chief, History Staff

Persons Mentioned

Brief Titles and Descriptions as of October 1962

Acheson, Dean	Former Secretary of State
Alsop, Joseph	Columnist
Alsop, Stewart	Columnist
Anderson, Adm. George W., Jr., USN	Chief of Naval Operations
Ball, George W.	Under Secretary of State
Bohlen, Charles E.	Newly appointed Ambassador to France, former Ambassador to the Soviet Union
Bowles, Chester	President's Special Representative and Adviser on African, Asian and Latin American Affairs
Bundy, McGeorge	Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Cannon, Representative Clarence (D-MO)	Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Carroll, Lt. Gen. Joseph F., USAF	Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Carter, Lt. Gen. Marshall S., USA	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Castro, Fidel	Prime Minister of Cuba
Charyk, Joseph V.	Under Secretary of the Air Force
Cline, Ray S.	Deputy Director for Intelligence, CIA

Dillon, C. Douglas	Secretary of the Treasury
Dirksen, Senator Everett M. (R-IL)	Senate Minority Leader
Donovan, James B.	New York lawyer representing the Cuban Families Committee in efforts to release prisoners captured at the Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961
Eisenhower, Gen. Dwight D.	Former President of the United States
Elder, Walter	Executive Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence
Forrestal, Michael V.	National Security Council staff member
Fulbright, Senator J. William (D-AR)	Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Gilpatric, Roswell L.	Deputy Secretary of Defense
Graybeal, Sidney N.	Chief, Offensive Missiles Division, Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA
Grogan, Col. Stanley J., USA (Retired)	Assistant to the DCI for Public Affairs
Gromyko, Andrei A.	Soviet Foreign Minister
Halleck, Representative Charles A. (R-IN)	House Minority Leader
Harvey, William K.	Chief, Task Force W (CIA unit tasked with carrying out Operation MONGOOSE)
Hayden, Senator Carl (D-AZ)	President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

Helms, Richard M.	Deputy Director for Plans, CIA
Hickenlooper, Senator Bourke B. (R-IA)	Chairman, Senate Republican Policy Committee
Hilsman, Roger, Jr.	Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State
Johnson, Clarence (Kelly)	Chief aircraft designer, Lockheed Aircraft
Johnson, Lyndon B.	Vice President of the United States
Johnson, U. Alexis	Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
Karamessines, Thomas H.	Assistant Deputy Director for Plans, CIA
Kaysen, Carl	Deputy Special Assistant to the Presi- dent for National Security Affairs
Keating, Senator Kenneth B. (R-NY)	Senator who warned of missiles in Cuba
Kennedy, John F.	President of the United States
Kennedy, Robert F.	Attorney General
Kent, Sherman	Chairman, Board of National Esti- mates, CIA
Khrushchev, Nikita S.	First Secretary, Central Committee CPSU and Soviet Premier
Killian, James R., Jr.	President of MIT and Chairman, Pre- sident's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board
Kirkpatrick, Lyman B.	Executive Director, CIA
Knoche, E. Henry	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Di- rector of Central Intelligence

Knox, William E.	President, Westinghouse International
Krock, Arthur	Columnist, <i>The New York Times</i>
Lansdale, Brig. Gen. Edward G., USAF	Assistant for Special Operations to the Secretary of Defense and head of Operation MONGOOSE
Lawrence, David	Editor and columnist, <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>
Lemnitzer, Gen. Lyman L., USA	Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff until 1 October 1962
Lovett, Robert A.	Former Secretary of Defense
Lundahl, Arthur C.	Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center
Mansfield, Senator Mike (D-MT)	Senate Majority Leader
Martin, Edwin M.	Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs
McCloy, John J.	Coordinator of US disarmament activities and member of the US Delegation to the United Nations during the missile crisis
McCone, John A.	Director of Central Intelligence
McNamara, Robert S.	Secretary of Defense
Miskovsky, M. C.	Assistant General Counsel, CIA
Norstad, Gen. Lauris, USAF	Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR) and Commander in Chief, US European Command
Parker, Col. David Stewart, USA	Deputy Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

Parrott, Thomas A.	Executive Secretary, NSC Special Group
Reber, James Q.	Chairman, Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance
Rostow, Walt W.	Counselor and Chairman of Policy Planning Council, State Department
Rusk, Dean	Secretary of State
Russell, Bertrand	British philosopher and author
Russell, Senator Richard B. (D-GA)	Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
Saltonstall, Senator Leverett (R-MA)	Chairman, Senate Republican Conference
Scott, Paul	Columnist
Scoville, Herbert (Pete), Jr.	Deputy Director for Research, CIA
Smathers, Senator George A. (D-FL)	Secretary, Senate Democratic Conference
Sorensen, Theodore	Special Counsel to the President
Stevenson, Adlai E.	US Representative to the UN and Representative in the Security Council
Sweeney, Gen. Walter C., Jr., USAF	Commander in Chief, Tactical Air Command
Taylor, Gen. Maxwell D., USA	President's Military Representative until 1 October 1962; thereafter Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Thompson, Llewellyn E., Jr.	Former Ambassador to the Soviet Union

Tidwell, William A.	Assistant to Deputy Director for Intelligence (Planning), CIA
U Thant	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Vinson, Representative Carl (D-GA)	Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Warner, John S.	Legislative Counsel, CIA
Wheelon, Albert D.	Chairman, Guided Missile & Astronautics Intelligence Committee
Wiesner, Jerome B.	Science Adviser to the President
Wilson, Don	Deputy Director, USIA

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AG	Attorney General
ALPHA-66	Cuban exile group
BNE	Board of National Estimates, CIA
CHICKADEE	Special information handling channel for nondocumentary material generated by Col. Oleg Penkovsky
CINCARIB	Commander in Chief, Caribbean
CINCEUR	Commander in Chief, Europe
CINCLANT	Commander in Chief, Atlantic
COMINT	Communications Intelligence
COMOR	Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance
COS	Chief of Station
DCI	Director of Central Intelligence
DDCI	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
DD/I	Deputy Director for Intelligence
DD/P	Deputy Director for Plans
DD/R	Deputy Director for Research
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
DOD	Department of Defense
DRE	Cuban Student Directorate (Cuban student exile group)
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence
FI	Foreign Intelligence
5412 Committee	Oversight committee of the National Security Council; also referred to as the Special Group

GCI	Ground Control Intercept
GMAIC	Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee
ICBM	Intercontinental ballistic missile
IL 28	Soviet jet light bomber
IRBM	Intermediate-range ballistic missile
IRONBARK	Special information handling channel for documentary material generated by Col. Oleg Penkovsky
JAEIC	Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
MIG 21	Soviet jet fighter
MONGOOSE	Operation MONGOOSE
MRBM	Medium-range ballistic missile
MT	Megatons
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NIE	National Intelligence Estimate
NORAD	North American Air Defense Command
NPIC	National Photographic Interpretation Center
NSA	National Security Agency
NSAM	National Security Action Memorandum
NSC	National Security Council
OAS	Organization of American States
OCI	Office of Current Intelligence, CIA
OD	Operating Directive
ONE	Office of National Estimates, CIA

OSI	Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA
PFIAB	President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board
PI	Photointerpreter
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricants
PSALM	Special information handling channel for material related to presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
RF-101	Low altitude reconnaissance aircraft (US)
SA-2	See SAM
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SACEUR	Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SHAPE	Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe
SNIE	Special National Intelligence Estimate
SS-4	See MRBM
SS-5	See IRBM
SecDef	Secretary of Defense
Special Group (Augmented)	National Security Council committee with oversight over Operation MONGOOSE
Special Group	Oversight committee of the National Security Council; also referred to as the 5412 Committee
TFW	Task Force W (special CIA unit tasked with carrying out Operation MONGOOSE)
U-2	High-altitude reconnaissance aircraft (US)
UN	United Nations
USIA	United States Information Agency
USIB	United States Intelligence Board

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