

PREM 11/3689

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TOP SECRET

October 22, 1962

7th July, U-2 flight over Cuba disclosed no missile sites.

Soviet personnel movements started in July.

Since August, there have been over 100 Soviet dry cargo ships carrying military cargo.

Defensive Weapons

Probably started defensive weapons on Surface to Air (SAM) sites in July.

We have now identified at least 24 of these.

17 of them were in operational readiness as of yesterday, with missiles ready to be fired. We do not believe any testing has taken place in Cuba, though this was probably done before they left the Soviet Union.

We also know there are 12 motor torpedo boats in Cuban waters, with guided missile armament, the missiles having 10 to 15 mile range. These are regarded as defensive weapons.

On September 5, 1962, three cruise ^{missile} (anti-shipping missiles geared for high explosive) were located. They have a range of 20 to 30 miles--are coastal defense weapons.

Jet Fighters. Cubans have at least 100, of which 39 are MiG 21.

Offensive Weapons.

President's speech of September 13 reflected our knowledge as of that date when we were unaware that any offensive preparations had been made.

In early October one of our naval patrol planes photographed a Soviet cargo ship, carrying 10 crated IL 28 twin engined bombers. These are capable of offensive action.

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Delivered by American
Ambassador (Mr. Bruce)
at 22.10.62.

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On October 14 there was another U-2 mission, the first since late September. Photography disclosed a MRBM site for missiles with 1100 mile range. Then followed many reconnaissance flights, substantially covering the Island.

We have now identified 21 in all of IL 28 crates on airfields. One is already being assembled. This process of uncrating and assembly should not require more than 10 days.

In the course of this photography we find there are two MRBM sites in Western Cuba, each with 4 launchers, and each launcher has 2 missiles assigned to it, with a refire capability within 4 to 6 hours.

East of Havana there are another two MRBM sites.

There is preliminary evidence of two additional sites near San Cristobal.

Re the two sites in Western Cuba, we believe both are in a state of operational readiness. We expect the 2 sites East of Havana to be ready by November 1.

IRBM.

We also know there are two sites 21 miles West of Havana, near Guanagay. They are fixed sites similar to those in Soviet Union used for IRBM (with range of 2200 nautical miles). We think they may be operational about December 1.

Pictures disclose the presence of MRBM's; a special type of Soviet ship capable of carrying 80-foot IRBM missiles has made two trips to Havana (August 3, September 14) and is again due in Havana October 29.

We have no evidence of nuclear warheads, and probably will not get any, since it is almost impossible to detect them, when they are well hidden, by photography.

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The number of Soviet personnel in Cuba is estimated to be 11,000, of whom 8000 are military; we believe the number of military will rise to 14, when presently identified systems are fully operational.

As of this morning, there are indications that construction has begun on another IRBM site East of Havana near Remjdios.