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LATIN AMERICA

9. IL-28s in Cuba

Fuselage crates for nine IL-28 (Beagle) jet bombers were identified on 4 November at Holguin airfield in Oriente Province.

These are almost certainly the IL-28 crates observed on the Soviet vessel Leninsky Komsomol

[redacted]

To-  
gether with IL-28s previously seen at San Julian, they raise to 42 the number of IL-28s and IL-28 fuselage crates observed in Cuba.

There is no evidence that preparations are under way to withdraw the IL-28s despite Khrushchev's statement to President Kennedy on 28 October that the USSR will send back to the Soviet Union "those weapons you call offensive."

Early this year work was begun on lengthening the run-

ways at Holguin airfield and building covered aircraft revetments there. Work was apparently completed in July, but the airfield had been used very little if at all until now. The 16 covered revetments at Holguin airfield are apparently similar to those used by MIG fighters at three other Cuban military airfields.

[redacted] indicates that more than 100 Soviet helicopters have been shipped to Cuba so far. About 75 percent of these have arrived since the start of the intensive military build-up last July. Many of them are still in crates at an assembly area located at Playa Baracoa airfield west of Havana. They will enhance considerably Castro's capabilities to cope with antigovernment insurgents. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)