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TOP SECRET

DJSM-572-62
1 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Blockade of Cuba in Reprisal for Soviet Actions in Berlin (S)

1. This paper is submitted in response to a request by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, to determine the forces that would be required for an effective blockade of Cuba. Such a blockade might be ordered separately or in reprisal for Soviet actions in Berlin.

2. In view of the geographic location and insular nature of Cuba, together with the paucity of pro-Bloc air bases and effective resupply air routes, it is considered that a blockade which would preclude the export and import of the vital commodities necessary to the Cuban economy could be accomplished by maritime forces. Therefore, if directed to institute a blockade of Cuba, CINCLANT would initially put twelve (12) destroyers on perimeter patrol stations or eleven (11) destroyers on blockade stations for the control of specific harbors. These would be augmented by two (2) surveillance aircraft on air patrol stations. Fighter aircraft would be on call at Key West and Guantanamo and available to proceed to the assistance of the surveillance aircraft or destroyers in the event that the blockading forces were attacked by Cuban aircraft.

[A]

1r2

3. Detailed plans and instructions for the conduct of a blockade of Cuba are in existence. A sketch of the basic concept of the perimeter blockade stations is appended for information. It is considered that an effective blockade can be readily accomplished with existing naval forces. (See Tab A for force totals).

/s/ HERBERT D. RILEY
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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OSD: NO OBJECTION
25 JUN 98

The Department of State has no objection to the release or declassification of this document in full under the provisions of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526)
Reviewed on 4/30/98

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Withhold

TAB A

Blockade Forces

12 Destroyers

2 Surveillance Aircraft

1 Fighter Squadron

1 Fighter Squadron

Station

Perimeter Patrol

Air Patrol

On call at Key West (existing)

On call at Guantanamo (existing)

Backup for Sustained Effort

12 Destroyers for rotation

10 Surveillance Aircraft

None required

None required

1,2

Total forces required: (For sustained effort)

24 Destroyers

12 Surveillance Aircraft

2 Fighter Squadrons

[A]

