

25 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

VIA: The Executive Director

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Reference my memorandum of 23 October 1962, copy attached. I had a call today from Eugene Methvin of READER'S DIGEST, who said that he had called up Pierre Salinger who told him, according to Methvin, that the White House would give every possible help to the READER'S DIGEST in this project and Salinger would discuss it with me.
3. The DIGEST wishes to do a blow-by-blow account of the final intelligence phase that resulted in the President's establishing a quarantine around Cuba. They visualize intelligence personnel through an airplane photograph discovering MREM sites, launchers, transport and other materiel which gives the first indication of the threat to the Western world from Cuba via Soviet nuclear weapons. They would then wish to carry out the intelligence process insofar as that which may be revealed in getting the intelligence and evaluating it, and the DCI presenting it to the President. This would, of course, include information on USIB and its functioning in the crisis, as well as the President's executive council; provided, that they can get cooperation from CIA, the White House, Defense, and State.
4. They will have John Hubell, a senior editor who is now in Washington, doing the principal writing of the story, and Andy Jones, who is now attempting to have the Navy permit him to go to the Caribbean with the fleet.
5. Their timetable would be to finish the first draft of the story by 20 November 1962 and to complete the story by 5 December so that it would go to the printers by January and be printed in the February issue which goes on the newsstands 25 January.
6. READER'S DIGEST has always cooperated with this Agency on many stories and has never violated the confidence.
7. The general impression from the DIGEST story, Methvin said, will be favorable. They want to do a story on intelligence: the airplane, its efficient cameras, the danger to the pilots, the discovery of the missile sites, the White House conferences, the Defense Department background by McNamara at his press conference, the Director's visits to the President, when, who participated, who said what, the National Security Council meeting, etc.
8. While the favorable story is desirable, if CIA were to assist the DIGEST in this manner, a precedent on publicity for intelligence would be

established; it would have a very happy immediate effect for the CIA and the community, but it would have a very bad long-range effect in my opinion.

9. It is my opinion that we should decline to cooperate and thus establish a precedent. If we do this for the DIGEST, where do we stop?

10. The DCI, informed of this request, and of calls by John Finney of the NEW YORK TIMES, Bill Hines of the WASHINGTON STAR, Bob Donovan of the HERALD TRIBUNE, and Ed O'Brien of the ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT, said that he would not see the DIGEST writers or the others, but I could tell them:

a. No picture of the building will be permitted with or without his entering or leaving the building.

b. He would go this far in any Agency statement: I could say that he had gone to Seattle with Mrs. McCone to bring home the body of Paul Pigett. From Seattle he was summoned to Washington. Here he discussed the Cuban situation with other Presidential advisers, and he called the United States Intelligence Board into continuous session. With other Presidential advisers he has kept the President informed of the developing Cuban situation.

STANLEY J. GROGAN  
Assistant to the Director

cc: DDP  
DDI  
IDS  
Dir/Sec  
CI  
Gen. Counsel