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# Why Didn't JFK Act Earlier?



X-Ag 2  
X-Per 3 A. SANCHEZ  
X-Sci 1 GO (CSO) Arango  
X-Sci 1 Russia  
X-Per 1 U. PREWETT

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

Despite the show of strength which has forced the Soviet Union to agree to dismantle and remove the offensive missile bases and weapons she had furnished to Cuba, the fact remains that a communist country succeeded in getting under our guard to plant deadly arms within 90 miles of our shores.

These thirty or forty deadly birds, plus atomic weapons that the Pentagon believes came with the light bombers shipped to Cuba, could deal a stunning blow to the American nation—without Russia's lifting a finger except to pull the trigger by remote control.

## HARD QUESTIONS

The Administration's contention that our young president received "hard" proof about the missile only on Oct. 16 will become a national question as grave as that still enshrouding his decision on April 17, 1961 not to support the U. S.-backed Cuban invasion to victory.

The deadly warheads and vicious planes in Cuba prove that our authorities have failed in protecting the United States. Whether the Administration knew and failed to act or failed to act because it did not know matters little. It is the failure itself that is important.

We have now suffered two stunning reverses on Cuba in less than a year and half. And not for lack of warning.

In this writer's files is a memorandum prepared three weeks before 1961's invasion. Written by Dr. Aurelio Sanchez Arango when he resigned from the U. S.-formed Cuban Revolutionary Council, it detailed the organizational and other reasons why the CIA's conduct of the invasion was sure to fail.

Dr. Sanchez Arango gave the original to U. S. authorities—and everything we foretold came true on Feb. 17.

## RELEASE

My files also contain a release by Major General S. S. Sargent, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Directorate, dated August 24, 1962, which says the heavy and mysterious military equipment had been landed in Bahia Llave, Cuba.

U. S. officials that a missile base has been installed near this port."

Their September 21 report says: "One of the European Ambassadors in Havana recently reported to his respective country that if the countries of this hemisphere do not take military action against Castro immediately, or at least before the next six months, Cuba will possess Russian missile bases armed with atomic and nuclear weapons capable of destroying in a few minutes the most strategic zones in the United States. Besides, it is known that the construction will be carried out secretly, with this end in view—that while the work continues, the American government will go on believing that the military installations are purely defensive measures."

And this also came true