

MEMORANDUM FOR: HO/NPIC

[Redacted]

I am pleased to learn from [Redacted] that the DDI Historical Board is approving [Redacted] very fine history for inclusion in the Historical Program. This is of course independent of whether it is published in the Studies.

Attached for your information is my review of this paper. I am passing the MS to [Redacted] the DDI/HO who will collect the comments of the Board Members and coordinate them with you and Djno.

Bernie

9 Nov 70
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

6 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : Review of NPIC Draft History, "The Cuban
Missile Crisis, Part I,"

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1. Subject history is a finely crafted account of the origin and build-up of the Cuban missile crisis, from the spotting of unidentified objects in the U-2 photography, and the subsequent disclosure of the Soviet strategic missiles, through the briefing of the President, on 16 October 1962.

2. The story dramatically documents the step-by-step process by which NPIC established that the objects were not air or coastal defense missiles, and then proceeded to solve the riddle by comparing the photography with collateral photographs of Soviet MRBM's. The handling of the measures taken to check and recheck this judgment is particularly illuminating, as is the subsequent discussion of the procedure by which the intelligence was spiralled upwards through progressively senior echelons to the President. The study thus consolidates the record of how NPIC handled the crisis. While the substantive support provided by OSI and ORR is acknowledged, the history does not claim to tell the full role of these components, of ONE, the DDI, the Agency as a whole, or of USIB's reaction to the crisis. Just enough reference to US relations with the USSR at the time is made to place NPIC's activities in context. To assist in fully completing the record, other components will still want, therefore, to relate the story of their participation in the handling of the crisis. The present account sets a high standard which it is hoped they will emulate.

3. The study reflects close research, is well-organized, and ably written, and needs only minimal editorial treatment, such as on the items indicated in the attached notes. The present draft is documented only

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by collateral material from the published accounts of the senior members of the Kennedy administration. It should also be documented to the appropriate intelligence sources. [redacted] tells me that he is prepared to provide the documentation.

4. It is my understanding that the manuscript has been submitted to Studies in Intelligence for publication. I agree that the study merits the wide circulation which such publication would provide, but I would also recommend separate publication in the CIA Historical Program, if only because the Studies has in the past, limited documentation to open sources and cross references to other articles in the Studies. Unless the Studies runs the manuscript serially, or devotes the major portion of an issue to it, there may be pressure to condense the present account for publication. Publication in the Historical Program will permit recounting the full story, complete with documentation.

[redacted]

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Deputy Chief, CIA Historical Staff

Attachment

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Notes on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Part I

P4, last para, first sentence

For transition from the previous paragraph, begin with: "In addition. . . "

Pp 5-6

Standardize spelling of Bosphorus, which is spelled two different ways here.

P7, lines 2-3

Place reference to collection guides in context, to establish continuity with the previous sentence.

P10, third para

Can the date of Mr. McCone's prediction be provided?

P14, third sentence

Since this is the first reference to the Banes cruise-missile site, it needs additional introduction, in preparation for the discussion that follows.

P25, line 8

Carter's.

P34 line 2

conglomeration

P55, 2d complete para

Clarify how and when alerted Carter.