

TOP SECRET

16 March 1964

SENSITIVE

The Honorable U. Alexis Johnson *clerk*
Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Alexis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 12th containing a copy of DoD-State Contingency Plan (C).

As I explained to you on the telephone, I was familiar with the work done by you and Paul Nitze on the plan, although I had not seen the final paper. While I appreciate this is an extremely complicated problem and the plan is the result of exhaustive work on your part as well as Paul's and the JCS, it is my opinion that the subject should be reviewed against the prospect of a unilateral action by Castro after he has acquired unrestrained control of the surface-to-air missile installations.

It may be that such a review will not change the many alternative courses of action which are included in the April 24, 1963 paper; nevertheless I believe that the prospective new circumstance warrants a review of the plan.

Furthermore it seems to me that it might be wise to "telegraph" a warning as we did in December of 1962 so that if Castro is tempted to take a reckless course, as he was reported to have considered in connection with the Cuban fishing boat incident, he will know well in advance that the consequences of such action would be serious indeed from his standpoint.

Sincerely,

Signed

John A. McCone
Director

JAM/mfb

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