

S E C R E T

RETURNED  
12 FEB 1992

6 January 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: DO/IRO

FROM:

[Redacted]

Chief, Historical Review Section, CRB/ISD

SUBJECT:

Coordination of Documents from DCI Record Files, Job No. 80B01676R, Box 18 [HRP No.91-1]

1. Attached for your coordination are six documents from records selected by the History Staff for possible release to the National Archives under the Historical Review Program. Our staff reviewed these documents under the provisions of Executive Order 12356 and initially recommended that the box be denied in full. The History Staff urged us to reconsider certain files that they considered of special historical value. The attached documents, as well as others that have been sent to the O/DCI, the DS&T, and/or the DI, are the result of our second effort. There are three codeword items that we have included in this package because of their limited sensitivity and the fact that they have been handled out of channels by both the O/DCI and the Records Center.

2. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with our determinations by checking the appropriate boxes and signing the HRP cover sheet. Item No. 180019.2, SNIE 85-4-62, was released sanitized--excessively in our opinion--in 1986. Our green deletions indicate original redaction which we think could be released, while the yellow deletions indicate original redaction which we think should be retained. Items No. 180083 and No. 180084 are DI Research Staff papers on the 1962 Soviet Missile Base venture in Cuba. We believe they could be released as sanitized. Their historical value suggests that it would be worth the effort even if you feel that additional deletions are needed. Both of these papers will be reviewed also by the DI.

3. This review was prepared by [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Attachments

UNCLASSIFIED  
WHEN SEPARATED  
FROM ATTACHMENTS

ILLEGIB

S E C R E T

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I'm enclosing this Washington Post clipping from last week just to remind you of what's happening on this story out in the wider world. This story is one of the best possible examples of the stellar performance of CIA (and the IC) under pressure--along with a few miscalls. Release of substantial amounts from this single box of the DCI permanent records would go a long way toward explaining why the US needs a CIA.

W, POST, 3 JAN 92, A18

## Cuban Missile Crisis Letters To Be Revealed, Sources Say

Associated Press

The U.S. and Russian governments are preparing to release key letters between President John F. Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev sent in the aftermath of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, U.S. and private sources said yesterday.

It was not clear whether the release would be simultaneous. "We're in the final stretches," said a U.S. official, commenting on the preparations for making the documents public.

The official, asking not to be identified, said the Kennedy letters may contain some clarifications of the agreements Washington and Moscow reached in late October 1962 when the crisis was resolved.

No other conflict during the post-World War II era brought the superpowers closer to nuclear war than the crisis that grew out of the Soviet decision to deploy nuclear-armed weapons to Cuba, 90 miles off the coast of Florida. A week of unprecedented international tension ended

when Khrushchev agreed to dismantle Soviet missiles in Cuba in return for a promise by Kennedy not to invade Cuba. Kennedy also agreed to call off a U.S. blockade of the island.

At issue are several Kennedy letters to Khrushchev that were sent between Nov. 3 and Dec. 14, 1962. One official said some of the letters have remained classified because they contain references to Berlin, a major point of U.S.-Soviet conflict during the Cold War period.

Officials said the government's decision to release the Kennedy letters is linked to a long-planned conference on the missile crisis that the Cuban government is holding in Havana starting next Thursday. U.S., Soviet and Cuban officials who participated in the crisis are scheduled to attend.

Philip Brenner of American University has been seeking release of the Kennedy letters for some time, and officials acknowledged that his efforts influenced the administration's decision to make them public.