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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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23 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Herbert E. Meyer  
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Soviet Intentions Toward the US in the Next Eight Months

1. Attached is the draft that I developed with Harry Cochran, and which he wrote.

2. As you will see, we project a period of growing US-Soviet confrontation based on a Soviet perception that in an election year the US-- and its President--are especially vulnerable to pressure. Our prediction may, of course, prove wrong. But we should resist the temptation to dismiss the idea of confrontation on the grounds that such a policy would be too dangerous for the Soviets to contemplate. After all, there is a record of Soviet misjudgment based on their faulty calculations of just how vulnerable the US and its leaders have been at given times. One relevant example is Khrushchev's patronizing the reading of JFK at the Vienna Summit in June 1961--two months after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. At that time, Khrushchev was under pressure at home as a result of his repeated retreats from threats to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany and force a unilateral change in the status of West Germany. This pressure tempted him into the trap of wishful thinking about JFK's vulnerability--a misjudgment that led directly to the Cuban missile crisis.

3. I look forward to your comments on this paper.



Herbert E. Meyer

Attachment:  
As stated

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Next 11 Page(s) In Document Denied