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ARMS DELIVERIES TO CUBA
26 September 1960

1. This memorandum is in response to a request for a summary of arms deliveries to Cuba from both bloc and non-bloc sources and a general evaluation of the numerous reports received on this subject.

2. The confirmed bloc arms now in Cuba are as follows:

a. Five Mi-4 (HOUND) helicopters. One of these was left in Cuba when the Soviet exposition closed last

All the helicopters are now believed to be stationed at the Playa Baracoa airfield near Havana, after being assembled there by Czech and Soviet technicians.

b. An unknown quantity of Czech 7.62 mm semi-automatic rifles (possibly as many as 10,000). Numerous reports were being received about arrival of bloc arms at this time, none of which were accepted until photographed a group of Cuban militiamen with the Czech rifles at a military ceremony on 21 August. Other materiel such as submachine guns and ammunition may have been delivered along with the rifles.

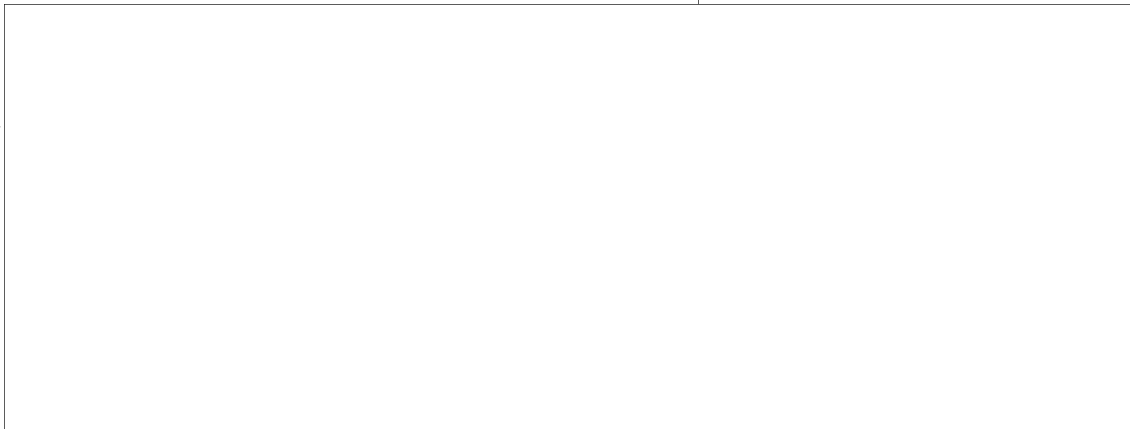
c. Ten tanks-possibly T-54's--100 antiaircraft guns, machine guns, large quantities of various caliber ammunition, and

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
10-26-2011

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unidentified quantities of various caliber ammunition, and unidentified quantities and types of electronic equipment.



MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT
FROM NON-SOVIET BLOC SOURCES

3. The Castro regime fell heir to military equipment held by the Batista regime sufficient to equip an army of 25,000 men. In addition, the Castro forces already possessed a considerable quantity of weapons, mostly small arms. The Castro regime also received shipment of 3,700,000 rounds of small arms ammunition from Norway ordered by Batista prior to his fall and five British Sea Fury fighter aircraft, the remainder of an order of 17 paid for by Batista, were turned over to Castro in May 1959.

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4. Immediately after assuming power, Castro launched into determined efforts to secure additional military equipment--efforts which increase in intensity throughout 1959 and into 1960. He met with most success from Belgium and Italy. In February 1959, a Cuban arms purchasing mission contracted from Fabrique Nacional in Liege, Belgium, for the following equipment, which was delivered to Cuba over a period beginning in March 1959 and ending about July 1960:

25,000 FAL rifles, 7.62 cal. (Standard NATO type)

52,000,000 cartridges for above rifles

105,000 anti-personnel grenades

2,500 grenade launchers

1,000 Belgian machine guns, 7.62 cal.

500 UZI (Pat. Israel) made in Belgium submachineguns

3,000 9 mm pistols

Total value of the Belgian contract, according to

was \$7,151,300.

The Castro regime has also made large military purchases from Italy. A Cuban-Italian contract signed in July 1959, called for shipment of materiel valued at approximately \$2,500,000. Delivery began in December 1959:

72 81 mm mortars and 40,000 mortar shells

16 120 mm mortars and 8,000 shells

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12 105 mm howitzers and 16,000 105 mm shells

50 machineguns

70 rocketlaunchers and 8,000 rockets

7 flamethrowers

1,500,000 50 cal. cartridges

Miscellaneous communications equipment.

5. The UAR and Cuba were negotiating in early 1960, but there is still no indication that Cuba has received any military equipment from the UAR. Some, including used aircraft, may be forthcoming, however.

Cuban efforts have often failed, however. A Cuban effort to exchange the piston-type Sea Furies it had obtained from Britain for an equivalent number of British Hunter Mark V jets fell through. Several Western European countries, including the UK, Norway, The Netherlands, and West Germany, have cooperated with US efforts to restrict the sale of military equipment to the Caribbean area. In July 1960, Belgium finally stopped issuing licenses for the export of military equipment to Cuba.

In June 1959 the Cuban government budgeted \$9,900,000 for the purchase of 15 coast guard units, three motor torpedoboats, and two buoy tenders. Cuban purchasing missions are still vainly trying to secure the craft in West Germany, after similar efforts in the United Kingdom and Italy and France fell through.

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