



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JCSM-844-62

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
THRU THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Recommendation for Execution of  
CINCLANT OPLANS 312 and 316

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have followed closely the rapid and continuing build-up of the Soviet nuclear threat and its associated defenses in Cuba. This build-up is illustrated by:

a. Additional construction at missile sites, including nuclear storage, and continued efforts to make all missiles and aircraft operational.

b. Measures to harden, camouflage and survive are being taken (i. e., concrete pads, movement of AAA to airfields, digging trenches, camouflage nets, covers, and paint).

c. Indication of Soviet ground troops, armed with tanks, ground artillery, and surface-to-surface tactical missiles (FROG).

d. Khrushchev's statement that the weapons in Cuba are under command of Soviet officers.

2. The above and other information convinces the Joint Chiefs of Staff that US delay in taking further direct military action toward solving the Cuban problem is to the benefit of the Soviet Union. Cuba will be harder to defeat. US casualties will be multiplied. The direct threat of attack on the Continental United States by Cuban-based nuclear missiles and nuclear capable aircraft will be greatly increased.

3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff interpret the Khrushchev statement, in conjunction with the build-up, to be efforts to delay direct action by the United States while preparing the ground for diplomatic black

4. In view of the foregoing, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend:

a. That CINCLANT OPLAN 312 be executed no later than Monday morning, 29 October, unless there is irrefutable evidence in the meantime that the offensive weapons are being dismantled or rendered inoperable.

b. That the execution of CINCLANT OPLAN 312 be followed by the execution of CINCLANT OPLAN 316 on S + 7 day.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

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