

5 Oct 60

WEEKLY COMINT ECONOMIC BRIEFING

1. INDICATIONS OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO CUBA

Soviet shipping and [redacted] messages of 23 September indicate that the cargo ship Atkarsk had arrived that day in Port Nikolaev (the primary Soviet Black Sea port for loading arms for export) to load 2,454 tons of "Yastrebov's" cargo and was scheduled to arrive in Cuba between 21 and 31 October. (Yastrebov, a Soviet trade official, has been associated with the export of Soviet military cargo from Port Nikolaev since 1956.) These messages also reveal that the cargo ship Nikolaj Burdenko, (which loaded 3,234 tons of unknown cargo in Nikolaev from 9 to 16 September), would arrive in Cuba between 10 and 20 October.

Communications intelligence also indicates that the Soviet ship Kirov is probably now en route to Cuba, possibly carrying arms; and that another ship (Leninogorsk) is now loading cargo at Nikolaev for Cuba.

(Two Soviet ships are known to have delivered military equipment to Cuba; the Ilya Mechnikov on 8 September and the Solnechnogorsk on 23 September.)

[redacted]

3
A
16
7
Sep
16
14
Sep
60
23
Sept
60
29
Sept
60
5
Oct
60

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted] ON [redacted]
 by Director, NSA, [redacted]
 [redacted] DATE 2 Oct 98

8. PRESENCE IN CUBA OF SOVIET ARMS EXPORT CHIEF

Information has become available that during the first week of August the Embassy in Havana received visa requests from two officials of the Soviet Chief Engineering Directorate (CED) of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, the Soviet organization responsible for export of military equipment. The two officials--Deputy Chairman of the CED

-3-

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

DECLASSIFIED per GPO 24 E.O. 12958
by Director, NSA/CSS, GPO

BAV date 2 Oct 98

13
07/07
28
28
150
3
150

DECLASSIFIED per GPO 24 E.O. 12958
by Director, NSA, Date, 053
Fell 2002 2 Oct 98

10. PLANNED CUBAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET HELICOPTERS

In an 18 May plain-text message, the Head of the Soviet Commercial Mission in Havana informed the Soviet All-Union Association for Motor Vehicle Export that a contract for helicopters was to be signed with Cuba in two days, and he requested that the planes be shipped urgently since a letter of credit was being opened. (On 3 April the Soviet Commercial Mission in Havana had requested information on passenger and freight helicopters, including agricultural versions.)

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

M. A. Sergsychik and Yastrebov, an individual who has been associated since 1956 with the loading of arms cargo for Indonesia and the Middle East--applied for visas to pass through the ~~enroute~~ enroute to Moscow from Havana. This is the first indication that CED officials have been to Cuba. However, the head of the Czech arms export organization is known to have been in Cuba in early June.

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

3
August
60