

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLE 2007-292 #12
By MMK NLDDE Date 9/4/14

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DTG 220925Z

OPS IMMEDIATE

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LN 13804, 13803 TS NFN
LN 13789, 13770

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CJCS

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EXCLUSIVE FOR GEN TAYLOR FROM GEN NORSTAD.

Reurmsg JCS 6841.

My knowledge of new developments in the Cuban situation is limited to your JCS 6807 and your JCS 6830 and I therefore do not have any basis for commenting on the substance of the action proposed except as it applies to alert procedures in this theater. In passing, may I say that if the situation is serious and acute enough to send Acheson over to brief the Council and to ask for a NATO alert, we should have been given before this time some information as to the "why" as well as to the "what" in order to discharge properly our responsibilities which could rapidly become the most critical.

22

Oct 1962

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LAURIS NORSTAD, General, USAF
4006 1 3

S. W. DOWNEY
Colonel, U. S. Army

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Further to my ECC 9-101491, I cannot comment on whether a NATO alert would be "considered provocative" since I do not know the complete background, but such action would very clearly "create civil alarm" of a very high order. I can only hope that the consequences of a rejection by the NATO Council of the request for NATO forces to assume an alert posture is being considered. Unless the case for such action is overwhelming and dramatic, opposition may be expected. We must assume that even discussion of this subject will very shortly be public knowledge.

I repeat that my almost complete ignorance of what must be entirely new and most significant developments makes it impossible for me to offer any other comment on the substance of your JCS 6830. Since it may be expected that the NAC will seek my advice with respect to the institution of appropriate NATO alert measures, you may wish to give me more information.

I am leaving now for London, where I will remain until afternoon 23 Oct. In addition to seeing most of the U. K. military and political leaders in the course of this afternoon and tomorrow morning, I dine with Prime Minister Macmillan at 8:30 p. m. London time tonight and lunch with the Queen tomorrow. Although a guest of the British Government, I am staying at Adm Harold

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Page Smith's London flat in order to be near communications. I
may be reached at any time through his headquarters.

SCP 1.

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