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10/10/62

Alternative Course
Action in Cuba

1) Political Action - objectives
   (accompanied by
   open intensified
   surveillance and
   military preparations)

   a) to secure full support of NATO & OAS
   b) to give Kissinger a tough & through summit meeting
   c) to show world that US & Cuba cannot be
      relied upon by demonstrating failure of K's
      assurance that Soviet would not put Heavy
      weapons in Cuba
   d) to leverage of Cuba disadvantage - no early adequate, heavy countermeasures:
      Cuban targets, nearly 2 difficult to hit by eliminating surprise element
      and by putting time to develop MRBMs
   e) would result in sufficient force to retain
      confidence of allies to US determination to defend
      vital interests
   f) would be contrasted by some Americans as falling
      short of action necessary to protect US security

2) Military Action
   (no strike against
   known MRBMs)

   Argument: - would avoid disadvantage of political
   course of action
   against Cuba & safely be confirmed by early
   quick strike unless it took at 11:15 or 12:05,
   frustrated attack on Guantánamo and was followed
   up by continuing military action to prevent decay
   of offensive weapon by Soviet and replacement
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Basic clause between treaty Cuba as part of resolution US-Soviet conflict (which means living with Soviet forces in Cuba pending some future settlement with the USSR). A running note that by dealing with its peripheral issues and hence acceptable military solution. US could still train service factors that will involve US-Soviet in direct conflict. Underlying theme - whether it involved a force to settle issues between US-Soviet.

3/ Declaration was accompanied by full blockade.

Arguments for -

- economic sanctions (not) or (but) - in addition to military action -
- might be difficult to enforce against US allies -
- might embroil US in armed conflict with Soviet Union -
- would be long drawn out and as damaging to Cuban people as Castro requires.

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