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OPNAV 24 HOUR RESUME OF EVENTS
250000Q TO 260000Q

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS - (ALL TIMES QUEBEC - WASHINGTON)

- 0000 SUB CONTACT C-18 reported "Cold" as of 242330 at 25-13N, 83-23W actively being prosecuted by ESSEX A/C and 6 DD's. (See Tab Opsum)
- 0000 COMCARDIV 18 in ESSEX with escort DD's and COMSECONDFLT in NEWPORT NEWS and escort destroyers closing Soviet oiler BUCHAREST. ADM RICKETTS after conference with VADM BEAKLEY informed OPNAV Staff BUCHAREST must not get through the Quarantine barrier line.
- 0745 ADM RICKETTS by phone stressed with COMASWFORLANT the requirement to insure that BUCHAREST not pass through the barrier; and the need for every effort to insure photos taken of Soviet Merships turning east. COMCARDIV 18 in ESSEX, in contact with BUCHAREST since 0715, directed by ADM RICKETTS to accompany, but not to board or interfere with BUCHAREST passage. COMSECONDFLT in NEWPORT NEWS with DD's closing contact.
- 0800 RESUME OF THE EVENTS FROM CNO PLOT INDICATED:

Soviet oiler VINNITSA located West of barrier at 23-20N and 70-30W last at 232200 proceeding enroute Havana. Patrol ships in Windward Passage and along north coast of Cuba as she passes.

Merchant ships of concern 23-24 October headed in general easterly direction.

RADM HAYWARD (CTF-135) with ENTERPRISE, INDEPENDENCE, and destroyers operating in general area south of GUANTANAMO.

CANBERRA and escort destroyers operating in area west of Quarantine line center. 9 of 12 Quarantine stations manned.

THREE PHIBRONS, each with one BLT embarked, proceeding to Eleuthera Island. One BLT loading aboard PHIBRON 2 units at Moorehead City, North Carolina. Another BLT in PHIBRON 10 scheduled for loading ASAP. PHIBRON 8 units enroute CONUS to load a third BLT. When these PHIBRONS close Eleuthera assembly area, Marine assault forces required by CINCLANT OP PLANS 314/316 for assault on western Cuba will be prepositioned at Eleuthera in necessary amphibious ships.

FIFTH MEB continues loading from West Coast ports, but has been ordered not to sail until further orders received.

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- 0950 Photos confirm no deck cargo aboard BUCHAREST. SECDEF interest in making contact with friendly merchant ship (particularly UK) made known to CNO Flag Plot. Greek oiler SIRIUS well West of Quarantine Line at 0900 (Posit 22-10N, 27-50W).
- 1106 CON Flag Plot informed COMSECONDFLT assumed on scene command BUCHAREST surveillance. ESSEX group released for ASW/AIR coverage. If boarding later required NEWPORT NEWS will provide party.
- 1140 Destroyer JOHN R. PIERCE in vicinity of Lebanese freighter MARUCLA. Did not board.
- 1430 PIERCE now trailing East German Freighter VOLKERFREUND SCHAFT.
- 1447 DD from TG-136.3 directed to intercept MARUCLA. J F KENNEDY enroute.
- 1455 Dominican Republic made her ships available to U.S.; and a coastal patrol around the island was established.
- 1710 Task Group ALFA (TG-83.2)(COMCARDIV 16 in RANDOLPH) assigned to provide ASW support in vicinity of CTF-136 (Quarantine Force and CTF-44 (Amphibious Force).
- 1830 Admiral LEVERTON advises CINCLANT has directed daylight boarding of MARUCLA.
- 1846 P5M from Bermuda reports surfaced Soviet FOXTROT class submarine 26-49N, 67-26W, course 060 speed 10.
- 1915 PIERCE ceased surveillance of VOLKERFREUND SCHAFT. NEWPORT NEWS and DD's ceased shadowing BUCHAREST and are returning to roving patrol center of Quarantine Line.
- 1930 CNO Flag Plot advised CINCLANT now directs J P KENNEDY to locate and board MARUCLA earliest possible.
- 1940 CINCPACFLT directs movement of FIFTH MEB at maximum safe SOA through Panama Canal. CNO Flag Plot estimate of best possible completion time for onloading 262100 and estimate of arrival Balboa 040100 (SOA 15 knots).
- 2000 Verbal COMASWFORLANT designation of Soviet FOXTROT Submarine is C 19. OPNAV Intelligence estimate is that this is very probably the same submarine reported earlier and prosecuted by ESSEX group (C18). Forces prosecuting C18 remain on station, checking two "sinker" positions reported since contact was lost. Patrol aircraft surveillance of C 19 continues.

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2107 RANDOLPH S2F sighted MARUCLA 26-52N, 72-21W. PIERCE proceeding to scene. KENNEDY proceeding to intercept.

2225 JOHN R. PIERCE in vicinity MARUCLA. Has exchanged messages with MARUCLA. Freighter confirms destination Cuba. Cargo Sulphur. OPNAV Intelligence on MARUCLA: Lebanese freighter, Soviet Charter, out of Riga, bound for Cuba. Cargo sulphur and paper. PIERCE remaining within two miles of MARUCLA, verifies trucks on deck also. Agreed plan is to intercept and board at first light. KENNEDY to join prior to first light. (See Tab)

260000 STATUS

Loadout continues. RANDOLPH and escort destroyers will fuel at first light from ELOKOMIN. Quarantine Barrier Forces will fuel as available 26 October from CHIKASKIA. FMFLANT, LT GEN LUCKEY, CG 2nd MEF will embark in MT MC KINLEY. MAJ GEN WISEMAN, CG 2nd MARDIV will embark in MT MC KINLEY, and will transfer to FRANCIS MARION.

MOVEMENTS ORDERED OR UNDERWAY

Amphibious loading continues on schedule. Now over 30 flights/day over interested area from all bases and sources (i.e.; Navy, SAC). SAC continuing to meet CINCLANT surveillance requests on a day to day basis.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have directed CINCLANT to be prepared to strike all CUBA SA-2 sites within 12 hours, if a U-2 aircraft is shot down.

First elements of 3rd LAAM (Hawk Missile) Battalion arrived Key West. CINCLANT directed movement of one battery to GITMO. (MATS).

CINCLANTFLT directed establishment VP/SS barrier vicinity near Argentia, with readiness to move to GI-UK position as directed. Six submarines sailed 25 October. Four more scheduled 26 October. Estimated establishment time 29-31 October.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Soviet Oiler GROZNY of special interest for interception. Sighted 251459 at 25-10N, 51-40W by SAC A/C. No further reports. Reported dead in the water, but OPNAV Intelligence believes speed about 14-15 knots. Assuming a westerly heading at this speed, Flag Plot estimate is that GROZNY could be 160-200 miles from the Quarantine Barrier Line at 270600 (First Light). OPNAV Intelligence Information: 7200T Crude Oil, 566 Tons Liquid NH3 in 22 pressurized tubes, bound from Odessa to Cuba.

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Admiral ANDERSON has directed maximum utilization of P3V A/C from Patuxent River.

NAS Key West has a critical shortage of JP4 fuel for present A/C assignment. CINCLANTFLT strongly endorses COMWESTFOR recommendations to NFSO for emergency resupply.

Guantanamo water supply still intact. ATABAN water storage potable. With this storage total now approx. 14 million gallons. Flag Plot estimate is about 14 days supply.

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