


Authority 40850

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

October 26, 1962

MEMO FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GILPATRICK

Here is the paper Arthur talked to you about, which we may be able to use at our 11 a. m. briefing on Saturday.


Nils A. Lennartson
Deputy Assistant Secretary

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Unmistakable evidence of Russian naval involvement in the current Cuban situation was obtained late yesterday and today when U.S. Navy antisubmarine-warfare forces, by means of constant surveillance, forced two Soviet submarines to surface in Atlantic Ocean waters well off the east coast of the United States.

The first surfacing occurred at 1:40 PM (EDT) yesterday after the submarine had been persistently shadowed by P5M long-range patrol aircraft of Patrol Squadron 49, operating out of Bermuda. This submarine remains under surveillance.

The second submarine surfaced at 7:45 AM (EDT) this morning and was immediately sighted by S2F TRACKER patrol aircraft from the anti-submarine-warfare aircraft carrier ESSEX. The submarine's hull number, 945, was clearly visible. ESSEX and four destroyers now are on the scene and maintaining contact.

The surfacings apparently were necessitated by the submarines' need to recharge their batteries on the surface after sustained periods of submerged operations in unsuccessful efforts to escape the Navy ASW forces. The submarines did not surface in response to the signals spelled out by the State Department's Submarine Surfacing and Identification Procedures recently.

Commanding the task unit headed by ESSEX is Rear Admiral E. E. Christiansen, of Key Largo, Florida. ESSEX's commanding officer is Captain G. S. Bogart, of Saco, Maine. The destroyer BLANDY is commanded by Commander E. G. Kelley, of Belmont, Massachusetts, C. S. SPERRY, by Commander "R" "K" "S" Cole, KEPPLER by Commander C. C. Dusek, of Gladbrook, Iowa, and BARRY by Commander M. D. Ward, of Mt. Airy, North Carolina. Commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 49 is Commander H. C. Hansen, of Huron, South Dakota.

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