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24 October 1962 - A.M. (VADM GRIFFIN)

1. Upon receipt of information that there was a possibility that several Soviet ships had turned back, the following actions were taken:

a. CNO, who was in JCS meeting, notified.

b. Admiral Smith, CINCUSNAVEUR, was called and requested to exert maximum recon effort to ascertain position of these ships in his area of responsibility.

c. General Taylor, Chairman JCS, and Secretary McNamara were notified.

d. On instructions from White House Commander Carrier Division 18 in ESSEX was called on single side band and directed not to conduct intercept but to maintain surveillance of Soviet ship assigned to him.

2. Deputy CINCLANTFLT called with a request to continue the Peruvian section of UNITAS III through to completion on 4 November. This proposal envisaged the training exercise being run by the Senior Officer remaining after Rear Admiral Tyree and his staff were flown back to Trinidad. Deputy CINCLANTFLT was informed that in view of the fact that South American Navies were offering ships for our use in connection with the current crisis that psychologically it would probably not be wise to continue this training exercise with U.S. ships. Accordingly, the U.S. ships in UNITAS III were to be returned to current commands.

3. Vice Admiral Wellborn called and requested that he be kept informed as well as possible in connection with the current situation in order that his effectiveness in the United Nations might be enhanced. He was assured that we would keep him so informed to the best of our ability. He further advised that should it be necessary to pass classified traffic to him as a matter of urgency, there was a secure channel from the JCS War Room to Colonel Cunningham on his staff in New York.

P.M.

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4. Secretary McNamara was briefed in Intelligence Plot about 1545. At the conclusion of this briefing he requested that we prepare for him as full a picture as possible of the situation regarding the turn-around of Soviet merships following Presidential speech and proclamation. The effort here is to produce a document which to the best of our ability can be sufficiently good to be convincing to those who may not want to believe our unsubstantiated statements in this matter. Rear Admiral Lowrance has this project for action.

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24 October 1962 (VADM SHARP)

1. Alexis Johnson called reference to SecDef msg to SecState regarding a msg to the Soviet Union giving procedure for signalling to submerged subs. He said msg should go to all countries, not just Soviet Union.

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