

**Memorandum from Malinovsky and Zakharov Informing of Decision to Provide
IL-28s and Luna Missiles and of the Pre-delegation of Launch Authority to Pliyev,
8 September 1962**

To the Commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Cuba

For the purpose of strengthening of the Group of Soviet Forces in Cuba and increasing [its] capability to fight against the enemy landing, [we] are sending you additional means:

---squadron of plane-carriers IL-28 (6 planes and 6 nuclear bombs—407 H) with PRTB

---three battalions of "Luna" (6 launchers, 12 missiles, 12 special warheads and 24 conventional missiles) with PTRB

In a situation of an enemy landing on the island of Cuba and of the concentration of enemy ships with amphibious forces off the coast of Cuba in its territorial waters, when the destruction of the enemy is delaying [further actions] and there is no possibility of receiving instructions from the USSR Ministry of Defense, you are permitted to make your own decision and to use the nuclear means of the "Luna," IL-28 or FKR-1 as instruments of local warfare for the destruction of the enemy on land and along the coast in order to achieve the complete destruction of the invaders on the Cuban territory and to defend the Republic of Cuba.

USSR Minister of Defense
Marshal of the Soviet Union

[signature]
R. Malinovsky

P.P. Chief of the General Staff
Marshal of the Soviet Union

[signature]
M. Zakharov

8 September 1962

Signed
S. P. Ivanov

[Translator's Note: This is a draft directive, handwritten. Defense Minister Malinovsky, who preferred to keep the instruction oral only, never signed it. On the back of the directive is written: "prepared in one copy by Major General G. Yeliseev 08.09.62. Shown to Lieutenant General of the Air Force Davidkov 10.09.62"]

[Source: A. Gribkov and W. Smith, Operation Anadyr: U.S. and Soviet Generals Recount the Cuban Missile Crisis, edition q, inc., Chicago, Berlin, Tokyo and Moscow, 1994, p. 183. Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya, The National Security Archive]