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ENTRIES OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

23 October 1962 (ADM RICKETTS)

1. CINCLANTFLT will make a submarine reconnaissance of prospective landing beaches in the next two or three days. This reconnaissance will not be as extensive as the one made in April when several swimmers were employed in determining the detailed characteristics of the beach. The purpose of this reconnaissance will be primarily to determine whether or not man-made obstacles have been placed on the beach approaches recently.

2. The SECNAV has asked BUPERS to prepare a directive from SECNAV to Chief, BUPERS, to keep men in the Navy after the expiration of their enlistment(s). His initial position was that we should keep all officers and men whose contract or enlistment was expiring. Chief, BUPERS, convinced him that it would be better to leave some flexibility in the directive so that it need apply to certain categories such as critical skills.

a. SECNAV also asked Chief, BUPERS, to prepare a paper setting forth the justification for the holding of people in the Navy beyond the expiration of their contract. This paper would be used for discussion with SECNAV and others.

b. Chief, BUPERS, also wants some flexibility in the retention of prospective officers scheduled to retire. This issue is not settled, since the Secretary's first reaction was to stop all retirements.

3. The SECNAV will talk to Admiral Anderson about buttoning-up the overhauls of the reserve ships (i.e., the 40 DD/DE) in anticipation of a possible recall. I recommend that we don't do this now, but that we be ready to do so. Both 04 and BUSHIPS were notified of this possibility some days ago. They are ready to suspend these overhauls promptly, if ordered.

4. RADM Mott is working with the legal authorities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General in revising the standard forms for a blockade proclamation; two forms based upon the "quarantine" language. The NAVICERT form phraseology will need to be changed for the same reason. They are doing this. Mott is working closely with OPNAV operators and planners to ensure that operational and planning factors are adequately considered.

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23 October 1962 (Cont'd) (ADM RICKETTS)

5. Op-04 is keeping a running record of the status of our ships' overhaul--both regular and reserve--in order to assist in making judgment on the expediting or stopping of an overhaul on short notice. He is also making a list of those ships that are scheduled to go in for overhaul in the near future to help to make judgment whether or not to delay overhaul of any ship.

X 6. There may be a requirement for simultaneous operation of about three submarines to land up to about 125 people at various points around the periphery of Cuba. CIA project. Op-31 checking availability of subs. General Lansdale and LTCOL Patchell are the contact points.

X 7. Mr. McNamara would like to have some means worked out by which a Soviet submerged submarine could be given a signal to surface. It is possible that the description of this signal would be sent to the Soviet Government so that they could transmit it to the Soviet submarine. I told Mr. McNamara that a practice depth charge would probably be the most practical and effective means of transmitting such a signal since we don't know whether or not our underwater telephone gear is compatible with the Soviets. OP-31 is working up a proposed signal.

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23 October 1962 (1040) (ADM RICKETTS)

1. Immediately after the President's speech last night, he called Prime Minister MacMillan who gave the President his complete support. He even asked the President why he didn't go all the way and send in troops.
2. The President also called Mr. McNamara regarding the time when we would be ready to invade Cuba. Mr. McNamara told him seven days. The President said that he wanted to be sure that we are ready in every respect at the end of the seven days.

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