

SECRETDEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

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 TO : JCS
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PERSONAL FOR TAYLOR FROM GERHART.

In response to your verbal request my thoughts on civil defense actions in Florida are as follows:

1. The population of the southeast U.S. and particularly Florida should have the benefit of a public announcement from you, the Secretary of Defense, or the President, generally to the effect that the military build-up in their area is a defense precautionary measure, that by virtue of this build-up the probability of an attack from Cuba is lessened and that the public be urged to continue their normal pursuits. I also feel that there should be some method from various news media of keeping the population in that area informed to the extent that security will permit. All of these actions should probably be taken in connection with the local state governments as well as their representatives in Washington.

2. I do not feel that the situation requires such drastic actions as blackout, CONELRAD, or evacuation, and that no control of influx or regress of civilian surface traffic is warranted at this time. Taking any of these actions would probably be met with violent protests from civic and business interests and would not contribute greatly to the overall defense mission.

BT

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.3

By MM/DC, NARA, Date 4/28/2

NOTE : Advance copy delivered to JCS

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