



Source 1

Telegram from the British ambassador in the USA to the British Foreign Office about missile bases in Cuba, 25 October 1962

(Catalogue ref: FO 371/162380)

Questions

1. How concerned do you think the British might be that the Soviets had missiles in Cuba pointed at America? Explain your answer.
2. Do you agree or disagree with the view that Kennedy had no real choice but to take firm action against the USSR over the missiles in Cuba? Explain your point of view.



HEROES & VILLAINS

Kennedy & Cuba > What triggered the missile crisis?

Source 1

SECRET

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

26 OCT 1962
AC1261/159.

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Sir D. Ormsby Gore
No. 2684
October 25, 1962

D: 12.03 a.m. October 26, 1962
R: 12.56 a.m. October 26, 1962

PRIORITY
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 2684 of October 25.
Repeated for information to: U.K. Del. N.A.T.O.
Moscow
Havana
U.K. Mission New York

Cuba

United States Intelligence has identified the following numbers and types of Soviet missile sites in Cuba according to information given to us today by Pentagon and C.I.A.

(a) Medium-range missiles.

(i) SS4 missile scheme (range 1020 nautical miles). Six identified sites all fully operational by October 28. Each site has four launchers with provision for two missiles per launcher.

(ii) SS5 missile scheme (range 2200 nautical miles). Three sites identified, estimated operational date late 1962. Each site has four launchers.

(b) Ground-to-air missiles.

SA2 missile scheme. Twenty-four sites each with six launchers. Fully operational.

(c) Coast defence missile sites (range 35 nautical miles). Three identified.

2. Q.S. Intelligence has not revealed to us location of sites, but Pentagon official has stated that information in article in Washington Post of October 25 (copy by bag) is generally accurate so far as it goes.

Foreign Office pass U.K. Del. N.A.T.O., Havana and Moscow as my telegrams Nos. 218, 77 and 323 respectively.
[Repeated as requested]

JJJJJ SECRET

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