

October 28, 1962

Letter from Khrushchev to Fidel Castro

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Summary:

Khrushchev informed Castro of his deal with J.F.Kennedy. The Soviet leader warned Castro of attempts to sabotage the agreement by men in the Pentagon and urged him to restrain from being provoked, e.g. firing at American planes.

Credits:

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Contents:

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Dear Comrade Fidel Castro:

Our message of 27 October to President Kennedy makes it possible to normalize the situation to our advantage, and to protect Cuba from invasion and war. Kennedy's response, which you appear familiar with, provides a guarantee that the USA will refrain from invading Cuba not only with its own forces, but with those of its allies as well; the President of the USA responds with agreement to my messages of 26 and 27 October 1962 .

We have now composed our response to the President's response message. I will not give you a lengthy account of it, since you will become familiar with the text that is being broadcast now by radio.

In connection with this we would like to recommend to you now, at this critical moment, not to yield to your emotions, to show restraint. It must be said that we understand your indignation over the US aggressions, and their violations of the basic guidelines of international law. But at present it is not so much the law at work, as the recklessness of certain military figures in the Pentagon. Now that an agreement is beginning to take shape, the Pentagon is looking for an opportunity to undermine that agreement. So it is going so far as to organize provocative airplane flights. You shot down one such plane yesterday, although you had never shot them down before when they flew over your territory. Such an action will be exploited by the aggressors for their own purposes.

For this reason we would like to offer the following friendly advice to you: show patience, restraint, and more restraint. Of course if there is an invasion, then it will be necessary to repel it with all the forces at your disposal. But do not let yourselves be provoked, since the frenzied military men in the Pentagon now, at the very moment when an elimination of the conflict is taking shape to your advantage, by including a guarantee against the invasion of Cuba, seem to want to undermine the agreement and provoke you to actions which could then be used against you. We would ask you not to let this happen. And we for our part are doing everything we can to stabilize the situation in Cuba, to protect Cuba from invasion, and to safeguard for you the possibility of the peaceful building of a socialist society.

We send our greetings to you and to all your administrative collective.

N. KHRUSHCHEV

28 October 1962