

October 28, 1962

Cable no. 330 from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Havana (Pavlíček)

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Summary:

Pavlicek writes of the negotiations between Khrushchev and Kennedy and of the Cuban people's reaction to them, which is mixed. Among the higher ranking intelligentsia, there is a suspicion that Cuba's defenses will be weakened. Among the lower-level staff, Khrushchev is met with trust and understanding. The Czechoslovak Press Agency is to publish the events in favor of the Soviet Union, portraying it as forcing the United States to negotiate.

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ČTK [Czechoslovak Press Agency]

Amongst the lower staff of the ORI [Integrated Revolutionary Organizations], the reaction to [Soviet Premier Nikita S.] Khrushchev is understood correctly and with trust. Amongst the intelligentsia there is concern that a portion of the population will be fooled by the offer, that Cuba's defenses will be weakened as a result and inspections allowed, despite Fidel [Castro]'s claim that inspections will never be permitted and that defenses will continue to be erected. Therefore the news has not been published as of Saturday noon, although known since Friday. It will be explained as a peaceful measure by the Soviet Union with the goal of forcing the USA to negotiate, and at the same time unmasking them because [US President John F.] Kennedy will not allow the Turkish bases to be closed.

News sent by Štrafelda and Vavruš.

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