

October 22, 1962
Telegram from Soviet representative to the UN
Zorin to Soviet Foreign Ministry

Citation:

"Telegram from Soviet representative to the UN Zorin to Soviet Foreign Ministry", October 22, 1962, Wilson Center Digital Archive, AVP RF; copy obtained by NHK, provided to CWIHP, and on file at National Security Archive, Washington, D.C.; translation by John Henriksen <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/111912>

Summary:

Zorin transmits the US's letter to the UN security council regarding Soviet weapons in Cuba. Zorin states that the US's letter is a means to legitimize the US blockade on Cuba. Soviet representatives to the UN had a preliminary discussion with the Cuban representative about the possibility of submitting an examination of the issue of US action against Cuba before consulting with other members of the Council on the time for convening the meeting.

Original Language:

Russian

Contents:

Translation - English

22 October 1962

On the evening of 22 October, during Kennedy's speech, the United States sent me, as chair of the Security Council, a letter demanding an urgent convocation of the Security Council for a discussion of the "serious threat to the security of the Western hemisphere, and to peace throughout the whole world, posed by continuing and growing foreign intervention in the Caribbean basin." In oral communication, the Americans called for a convocation of the Security Council on 23 October at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

[U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Adlai] Stevenson's letter reiterated the points made by Kennedy in his radio and television speech. Appended to the letter was the draft of a resolution which in its main strategic part runs as follows:

"The Security Council...

1. Demands, as a temporary measure, in accordance with Article 40 of the Charter, the immediate dismantling and removal from Cuba of all ballistic missiles and other armaments used for offensive purposes.
2. Authorizes and requests the acting secretary general to dispatch to Cuba a corps of UN observers to ensure fulfillment of this resolution and to deliver a report.
3. Demands the cessation of quarantine measures directed against military deliveries to Cuba after the UN has been assured of the fulfillment of Point 1.
4. Strongly recommends that the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics immediately discuss the issue of measures to be taken to eliminate the currently existing threat to the security of the Western hemisphere and to peace throughout the world, and to deliver a report on this to the Security Council."

We will forward the text of Stevenson's letter and the draft of the resolution to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by teletype.

The United States' formulation of the imaginary threat posed by Cuba and the USSR is clearly aimed at concealing and justifying to public opinion the USA's unilaterally imposed military blockade of Cuba, which is an overtly aggressive act. In light of this, the demand for convening the Security Council is put forth after the USA has in fact established a blockade and undertaken a series of other aggressive actions against revolutionary Cuba. Thus the Americans have presented the Security Council, as they have done in the past, with a fait accompli.

Before consulting with the other members of the Security Council on the time for convening the meeting of the Council, we met with the Cuban representative and had a preliminary discussion of the possibility of Cuba's submitting to Council an examination of the issue of the USA's aggressive actions against Cuba.

The Cuban representative is conferring with his government on this issue.

We will undertake measures toward initiating the meeting of the Council no earlier than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on 23 October, although pressure from the Western majority of Council members for its immediate convocation has already been exerted.

We will provide supplementary information on our position in the Security Council.

22.X.62 V. Zorin

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