

HANDWRITTEN NOTE

[31 October 1962]

U Thant, 10/31/62, Wednesday at 10 p.m.

on return from Cuba (talk with Adlai and Jack McCloy)

Castro's frustration and bitterness against Russians

- he was not consulted by Russians before Khrushchev's statement to Kennedy about dismantling the missile sites
- in present Cuban mood, no possibility of UN inspection - invasion of sovereignty
- very likely to be showdown between Cubans and Russians
- no Cuban has been near the missile sites - all work done by Russians alone
- only about 50 miles from Havana - 3 miles off the road. Soviet Ambassador assured that dismantling is underway and will be completed, including bulldozing of installations by Friday at latest
- everything being crated and ships have been requested
- Russians got order to dismantle from Khrushchev on Sunday at 1 and work actually began at 5.
- movement to ports to start Thursday night
- Russian Ambassador and General said bases no longer exist
- no Soviet weapons, including aircraft, will be on sites on Friday

- all implements that are Soviet manned will be taken away
- Castro said US U2 was shot down by Cubans, who man all anti-aircraft

Castro was angry and emotional in U Thant's first meeting with him on Tuesday, 30 October (afternoon); he was more subdued on Wednesday a.m., when U Thant saw him alone

Castro adamant against any inspection, land or air, on Cuban territory

- blockade has already caused great distress in Cuba - no food, meat etc.

- At first meeting. Castro was very tense and angry, insisting that U Thant was coming to inspect - after 2 1/4 hours of his emotion, U Thant broke it off

- he said he would discuss only on basis of his 5 points
- he became more amenable when U Thant asked, on humanitarian grounds, the return of Major Anderson. He said he was sorry not to be able to return him alive, but he was dead and he would gladly return the body under UN auspices.

(Present: U Thant, Adlai Stevenson, John McCloy, Charles Yost, Omar Loutfi, C.V. Narasimhan, Inder Rikhye and me)

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UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 370

BOX 42

FILE 23

ACC. 96/20