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28 MARCH 1963

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Disseminated 29 March 1963  
TDCS DB-3653 939

REPORT CLASS: SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM. (DEFER HQS RE DISSEM ABROAD)

(HQS INSERT FIELD SYMBOL AND SERIAL NUMBER)

COUNTRY: CUBA, USSR

SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO OCTOBER 1962 CUBAN DESTRUCTION OF A U.S. U-2.

DOI: OCTOBER 1962

PADA: MEXICO CITY, 25 MARCH 1963

APPR: 2 (REPORTORIAL ACCURACY)

SOURCE: CUBAN WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN CUBAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES (B) FROM AN OFFICIAL OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT (F).

1. (FIELD COMMENT: THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS BEEN AN INTIMATE ACQUAINTANCE OF SOURCE FOR MANY YEARS. HE HAS EXCELLENT HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE CUBAN LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND IS INHERENTLY IN A POSITION TO HAVE ACQUIRED

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THE INFORMATION REPORTED BELOW.)

2. FIDEL CASTRO WAS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN AMERICAN U-2 PLANE AT THE HEIGHT OF THE OCTOBER 62 CUBAN CRISIS. CASTRO APPROACHED THE SOVIET COMMANDER OF A SAM EMPLACEMENT OR SAM DETACHMENT AND PARANGUED HIM ABOUT THE "IMPOSSIBILITY" OF PERMITTING U.S. PLANES TO PHOTOGRAPH CUBA. THE SOVIET SUCCUMBED TO CASTRO'S PERSUASIVENESS AND TOOK ACTION WHICH RESULTED IN THE SHOOTING DOWN OF A U-2 PLANE. WHEN HIGHER SOVIET COMMANDERS LEARNED OF THIS ACTION, THEY WERE FURIOUS AND THE SOVIET OFFICER WAS RETURNED TO THE USSR UNDER ARREST.

3. FIELD DISSEM: NONE.

END OF MESSAGE

ORIG: MIDDGAUGH

ELMARD

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FORM FS 413P  
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