

Armed Forces on World-Wide Alert For Red Reaction to Cuban Blockade

By John G. Norris

Staff Reporter

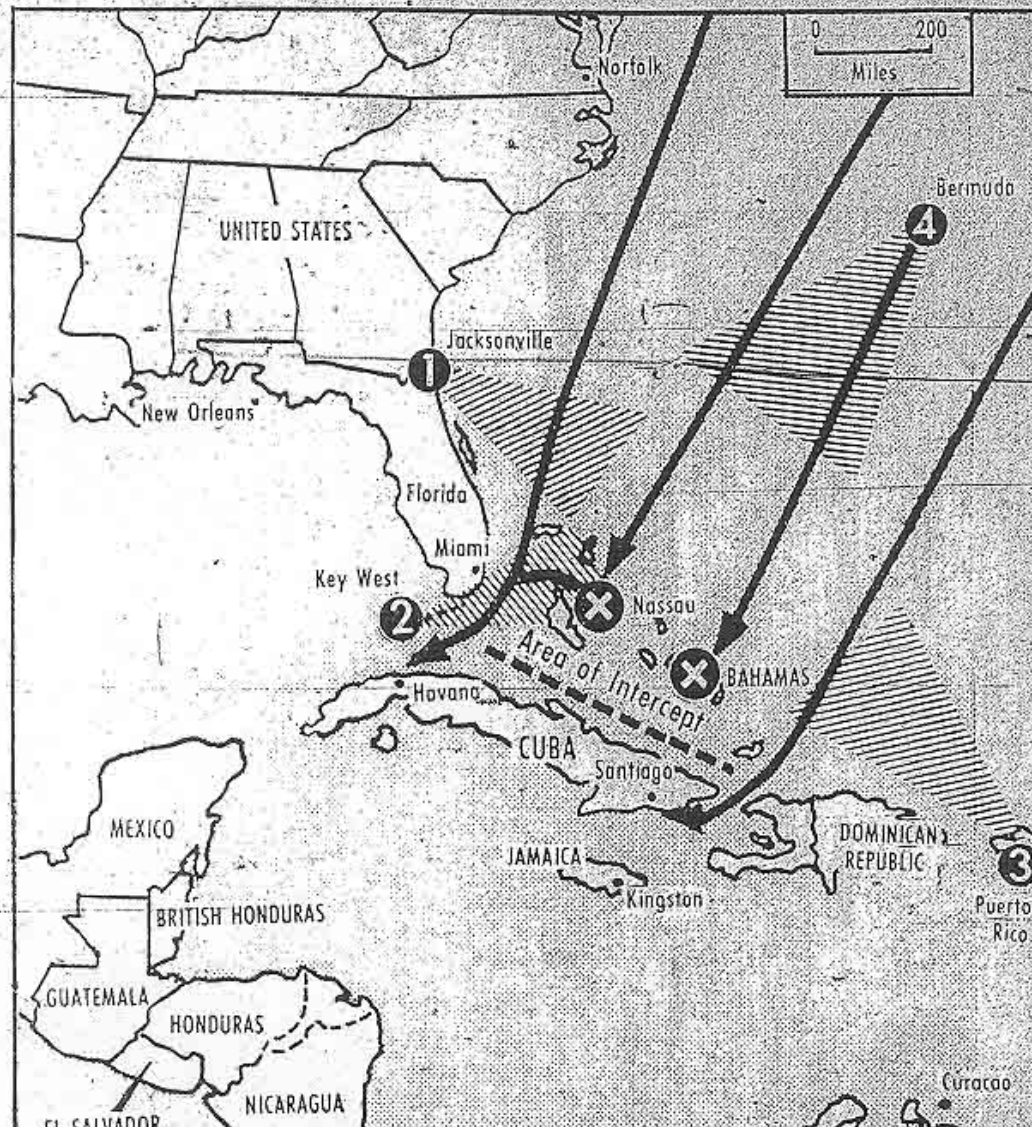
A massive sea and air blockade closed around Cuba last night as American armed forces around the world moved into increased alert for any Communist reaction to the U.S. action.

Defense sources reported that President Kennedy was about to issue an order permitting selective freeing of men in uniform to bolster the blockade and step up readiness. Some redeployment of troops and air units was under way.

Soviet blue ships, meanwhile, moved south the Atlantic toward Cuba and a possibly explosive test of the blockade against further introduction of offensive Russian weapons into the Western Hemisphere.

The wide-pled Navy blockade of warships and land-based patrol planes was particularly watching for a large Soviet ship apparently rigged especially to carry ballistic missiles.

Named the Poltava, it has been previously photographed by Navy reconnaissance planes on trips to Cuba, and may be due for a return trip in the next week or so. It looks like a tanker, reliable Pentagon sources said, with superstructure all to permit extra large hatches for large missiles.



now for calling up Naval or other reservists to meet the crisis, officials said. However, the Navy does want to retain some men now in service in scarce specialties and the other services also have need for such trained men under the increased Strategic Air Command, North Atlantic Air Defense Command and Army alerts.

Cuban Colony Here Praises U. S. Actions

After listening to President Kennedy Monday night, a group of Cubans in Washington called the White House to express their support.

An eagerness to be called on for action against Castro characterized the attitudes of those members of the Washington areas' 3000-strong Cuban refugee community who were questioned yesterday.

"Things are moving so fast we don't want to create any problem. But we want to express our feelings," said Miguel A. Mooney, president of the Cuban Professional Association here. He said his group was considering a demonstration before the White House in support of the President.

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The Navy refused to discuss the blockade plan, but geography made the broad aspects of the operation plain. The interception job is simplified by the fact that any ships headed for Cuban ports must pass through narrow openings in the long Bahaman and Antilles Island chains which form the Caribbean.

The normal route for ships heading for Cuban or other Caribbean ports from Europe is via several Great Circle trade routes and the Crooked Island or Northeast Providence Passages.

Approach is possible through other, more roundabout passages through the Bahamas or Antilles chain which runs from North to South America, or around the Bahamas and through the Florida Straits.

This means that air patrols from several U. S. aircraft carriers operating northeast

Map shows how United States air and sea blockade of Cuba presumably has been put in operation. Shaded areas show how air cover from bases at Jacksonville (1), Key West (2), Puerto Rico (3), and Bermuda (4) can watch over the routes

of the Bahamas, and naval air stations at Jacksonville, Fla., Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Key West, Fla., Bermuda and other bases can watch over the seas, while surface vessels can concentrate on the passages.

Destroyer type vessels undoubtedly are patrolling off both sides of the Bahaman passages, ready to intercept

ships of all nations when they have cleared such narrow waters and obviously are heading for a Cuban port.

A Defense Department spokesman has said that there are "more than enough" ships and planes available to make the blockade effective. No other

of Soviet bloc shipping (designated by long black arrows), while surface vessels can guard the shipping lanes. The two points marked (X) on map denote the Crooked Island and Northeast Providence passages.

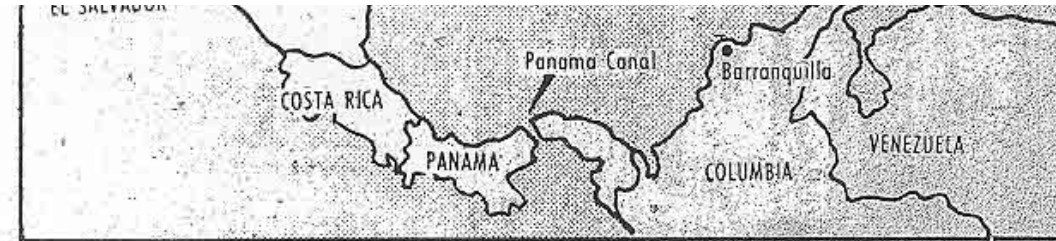
estimate of the number is available, but it unquestionably consists of dozens of ships and hundreds of planes. There is no need, however, for transferring additional vessels from the Pacific Fleet, Navy sources said.

Nor are there any plans right

The Cuban refugees in Washington are dependent on colleagues in Miami for leadership, said Ernesto Betancourt, former manager of Cuba's Bank of Foreign Trade for Castro and now an economist with the Organization of American States. "But I don't think any of them plans any action at this initial stage of events. The attitude is one of waiting to see what happens," he added.

"Most of the Cubans are very happy with the statement of Mr. Kennedy," said Nicholas Rivero, author of "Castro's Cuba" and one of those who called the White House expressing approval.

He said that Jose Miro Cardona, head of the Cuban Revolution Council with whom the United States Government has generally dealt in matters concerning refugees, was expected to arrive in Washington last



The Washington Post

WINSOR HOTEL
South Fallsburg, N. Y.

All Civilian Flights to Cuba Banned

Cuba was put off limits to airplane traffic yesterday by a Cuban government order

