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DJSM-572-62  
1 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Blockade of Cuba in Reprisal for Soviet  
Actions in Berlin (S)

1. This paper is submitted in response to a request by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, to determine the forces that would be required for an effective blockade of Cuba. Such a blockade might be ordered separately or in reprisal for Soviet actions in Berlin.

[A] 2. In view of the geographic location and insular nature of Cuba, together with the paucity of pro-Bloc air bases and effective resupply air routes, it is considered that a blockade which would preclude the export and import of the vital commodities necessary to the Cuban economy could be accomplished by maritime forces. Therefore, if directed to institute a blockade of Cuba, CINCLANT would initially put twelve (12) destroyers on perimeter patrol stations or eleven (11) destroyers on blockade stations for the control of specific harbors. These would be augmented by two (2) surveillance aircraft on air patrol stations. Fighter aircraft would be on call at Key West and Guantanamo and available to proceed to the assistance of the surveillance aircraft or destroyers in the event that the blockading forces were attacked by Cuban aircraft.

3. Detailed plans and instructions for the conduct of a blockade of Cuba are in existence. A sketch of the basic concept of the perimeter blockade stations is appended for information. It is considered that an effective blockade can be readily accomplished with existing naval forces. (See Tab A for force totals).

/s/ HERBERT D. RILEY  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Director

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25 JUN 98

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87 MDR 155  
87 TS 104

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TOP SECRET

TAB A

*withhold*

Blockade  
Forces

12 Destroyers

2 Surveillance  
Aircraft

1 Fighter  
Squadron

1 Fighter  
Squadron

Station

Perimeter  
Patrol

Air  
Patrol

On call at  
Key West  
(existing)

On call at  
Guantanamo  
(existing)

Backup for  
Sustained Effort

12 Destroyers for  
rotation

10 Surveillance  
Aircraft

None required

None required

*1,2*

Total forces required: (For sustained effort)

24 Destroyers

12 Surveillance Aircraft

2 Fighter Squadrons

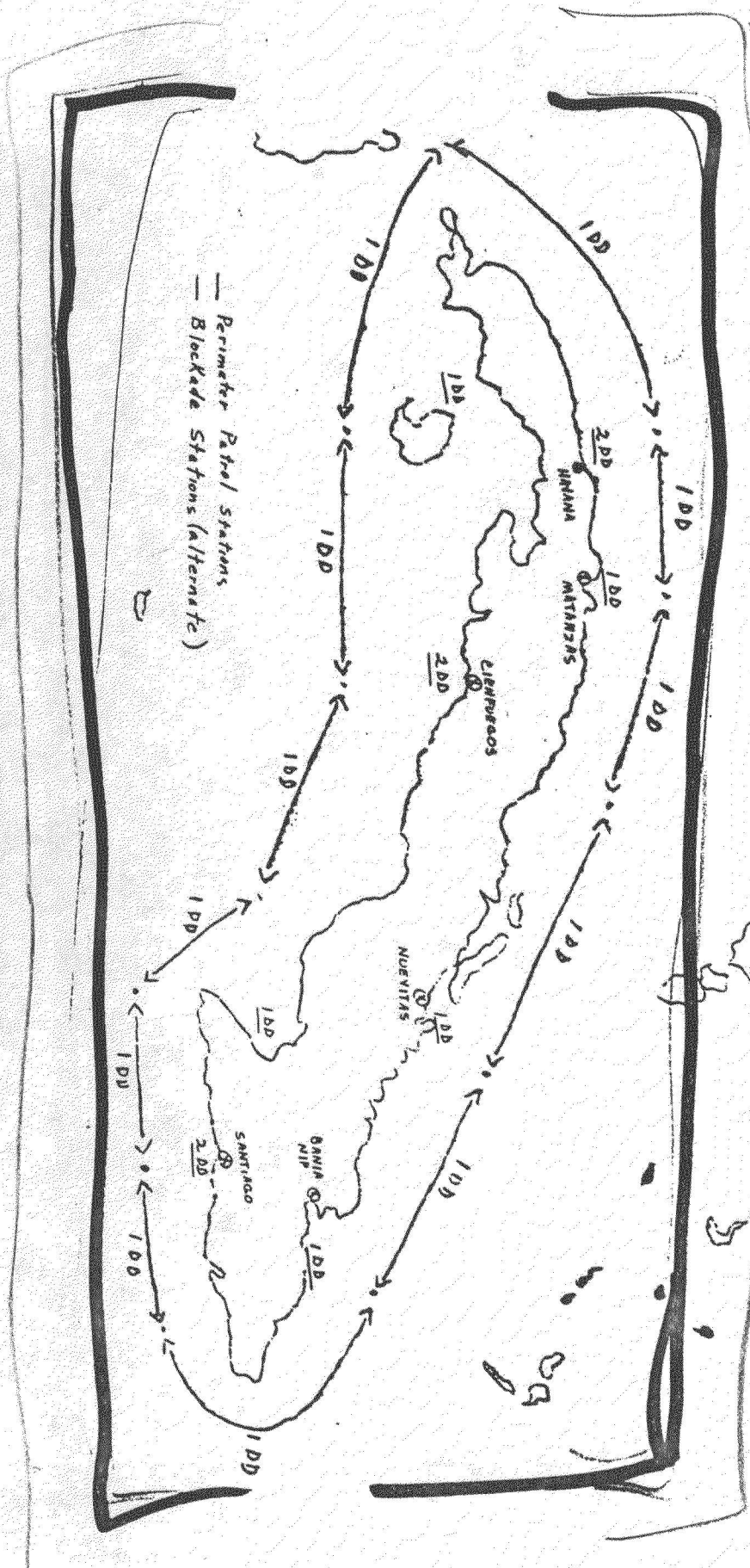
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Tab A

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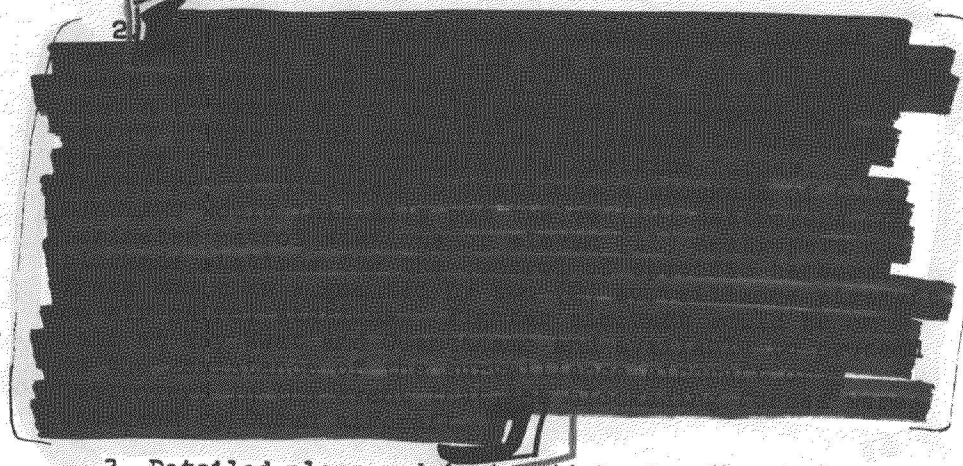
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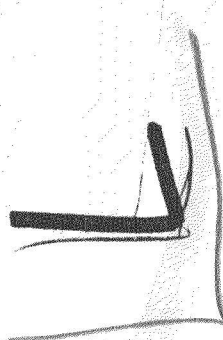
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TAB A

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Tab A

2



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