
COVERAGE  The collection contains 3,400 unique records of intelligence reports, diplomatic cables, political analyses, military situation reports, minutes of secret meetings, secret letters, oral histories, and closed-hearing testimony. These are unclassified and declassified government documents pertinent to important issues of U.S. defense, foreign intelligence and international policy.

Much of the material is from October 16, 1962, when McGeorge Bundy briefed Kennedy on the discovery of Soviet missiles in Cuba, to October 28, 1962, when Khruschev decided to withdraw the weapons. There are documents on the U.S. secret war against Castro, the military enforcement of a naval blockade of Cuba, preparations for a massive invasion, and documents about diplomatic negotiations on the U.S. policy toward Cuba, which followed the height of the crisis.

Most documents in this collection originated in the Department of State and its Bureau of Intelligence, the National Security Council, particularly the Executive Committee, and U.S. embassies and missions. Other documents were produced by the President, the director of the CIA, branches of the Defense Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Army, the Navy Air Force and the Marine Corps. Some congressional material, all significant contemporary congressional hearings and reports, and several executive session hearings are also included in this collection.

ACCESS Consult the two-volume guide prepared by the National Security Archive. Vol. I is an index by names, organizations and subjects. Vol. II contains an event chronology, glossaries of names and organizations, a chronological document bibliography and a bibliography of secondary sources. Give call number, title of the collection and the fiche number.


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