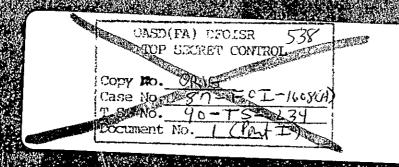


HISTORY OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS COMPETITION 1945-1972

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Office of the Secretary of Defense historical Office

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numbering at least 5,000 men, with T-54 tanks and antitank weapons. Some estimates are as high as 10,000 combat troops out of a total of 22,000 Soviet troops in Cuba. On the second the missile sites against a possible U.S. attack or to insure that they remained under Soviet rather than Cuban control.

Soviet Motives

Why the Soviets undertook an unprecedented deployment of strategic weapons to Cuba is a complicated question that has never been wholly clarified. Among the motives attributed to Khrushchev and his associates are the following:

- To use the threat of missiles emplaced in Cuba for limited political ends, primarily to extract a pledge from the United States not to take military action against the Castro regime, whose fears of invasion—whether justified or not—had led to pressure upon the Soviet Union for some form of protection.