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OFFICE LOG 25 OCT

- 0725 ADM Anderson arrived at the Pentagon and proceeded at once to Flag plot to investigate reports that the Bucharest had slipped through the first contingent of intercepting ships. ADM Ricketts in the office.
- 0758 VCNO departed
- 0831 VCNO and ADM Griffin arrived
- 0832 CNO arrived
- 0855 CDR Walker arrived and discussed the possibility of an early interception of a non-block ship. He said none were presently under surveillance and plot didn't know exactly where the destroyers were. He thought that the admiral wanted some information on this situation right away so he was prepared to give what he had, but IP was coming up with a better answer. CAPT Kidd told him that a Greek ship (Sirius) had requested permission of the Coast Guard to call at Cuba and suggested that IP investigate this possibility.
- 0901 CDR Walker phoned that the Sirius was 200 miles west of the line.
- 0903 CAPT Kidd ordered that word be passed immediately to the White House, SecDef and SecNav regarding intercept of the Bucharest.
- 0911 CAPT Thomas and a Time-Life reporter visited CNO
- 0925 ADM Smedberg departed after checking on the arrival of the USNS Upshurat Norfolk with dependents from Cuba. CNO asked him to meet them and he was going.
- 0927 CNO departed for JCS conference room.
- 0935 ADM Griffin entered hurriedly and said to VCNO "We've got to get word to Dennison right away" and left saying he was going to phone him.
- 0935 ADM McCain discussed plans with CAPT Kidd concerning Mr. Sylvester having coffee with CNO and being briefed in flag plot. CAPT Kidd said flag plot okay, but not IP and that it would have to be played by ear as far as the coffee was concerned.
- 0937 CAPT Kidd ordered that COM2FLT 251146Z be passed immediately to White House, SecDef and Joint War Room. [REDACTED]
- 0940 ADM Griffin arrived and said he had talked with ADM Dennison and told him to get a ship headed for the Sirius "so we can cover ourselves on this deal." (Or words to that effect) He also said that the Bucharest had exchanged calls with our ship.

2 OCT 1962  
Declassified

0944

ADM Pirie arrived and asked if anyone had any positive word that we were going to activate the Lexington. We must also activate an air group, he said, which we can do. He then went into CNO's office, in company with ADM Griffin

0945

CAPT Bayne discussed with CAPT Kidd what SECNAV wanted in the way of message traffic and briefings in flag plot. CAPT Kidd said that we'll do anything we can to help and suggested that the Secretary not get all the traffic because of the volume, but start with the CNO situation reports as a base because they were basically concerned with Navy in-house matters. He said that perhaps the Secretary would be interested in SITREPS down to fleet level and only sightings and incident reports below that level. He suggested that it would be difficult to keep up-to-the minute plot of the situation and that this could be best handled by the Secretary through visits to flag plot. CAPT Bayne agreed with these thoughts generally and said that he would now proceed to get the information he thought the Secretary wanted. CAPT Bayne was of the impression he had to get CAPT Kidd's okay to have the traffic routed to the Secretary, but CAPT Bayne said this was not so and that he merely wanted to know exactly what the Secretary wanted so that he could advise short of routing everything.

0946

ADM Pirie departed with CNO's parting comment: "The plan will be ready."

0949

CNO left for JCS conference room.

0954

✓ CDR Stroud arrived and said he had, at SecDef's request, given Mr. McNamara the ETD at the barrier of the Grozny, which was 272000 EDT and replied to another request concerning whether or not it had changed course. It had not. Mr. McNamara left for the White House with the information, he said.

0957

CAPT Kidd called CAPT Pratt and told him to put SECNAV on the distribution for JCS, CNO and CINLAND messages.

1025

CAPT Kidd ordered that voice communication message between Hickory Stick to Ivanhoe (CINCLANTFLT) DTG 251402Z be passed immediately to the White House, JCS, and SECDEF.

1026

CAPT Kidd called CNO and passed the above message to him, to the effect: From Gearing to CNO- Bucharest most cooperative. Ships exchanged good mornign signals and dipped colors." The message further reported position of ships relative to each other.

1030

CAPT Kidd called CNO and passed the following: The Gearing has the Bucharest on her port beam and she is receiving ECM and underwater transmissions from Starboard. The screen has altered and the ESSEX group is closing from the south.

1035

ADM Lowrence and CDR Stroud arrived and ADM Lowrence took ship's intelligence brief into ADM Ricketts.

- 1045 CDR Stroud departed for JCS with the above data.
- 1050 VCNO requested and received COM2FLT 251402Z and 251419Z
- 1054 CAP T Kidd passed to ADM Anderson the following message:  
Gearing evaluates ECM and underwater transmissions previously reported as Newport News and accompanying destroyers.
- VADM
- 1105 Nielsen reported message to/Beakley was acknowledged
- 1106 ADM Pirie arrived and departed after brief talk with CAPT Kidd.
- 1110 VCNO left
- 1115 Call for CAPT Kidd from Gilmore
- 1128 CAPT Kidd passed to CNO following: We have a Lebanese freighter (Zaruwi) at North end of patrol line with machinery, trucks, sulphur, paper rolls and spare parts. The destroyer Pierce is with her now. ADM Ricketts has notified the Secretary and unless otherwise directed, we will stop her and search. (NOTE: The name of this ship actually MARUCLA)
- 1138 CAPT Kidd remarked that Argentina, Chile and Venezuela have offered ships and assistance.
- 1144 Call to CAPT Kidd from ADM Denfield. The captain's responses were: "The effort is heavy to keep under surveillance everything moving." "I told ADM Anderson and ADM Ricketts what I said to you and they said it was appropriate and ADM Anderson told me to tell you not to worry; that protection is a function of ours, too." "Let's make sure they are well identified and fly their biggest flag. Make it easy to identify them so we can devote our time to those requiring careful scrutiny." "If it is a matter of necessity, certainly-- go ahead." "Anything they can do to help make prompt and early identification will make the job easier." "Also, have them file before leaving a concise report of how they are going."
- 1147 Call from CAPT Garrett and CAPT Kidd directed that he try to bring up the Pierce on single side-band and try to talk to her.
- NOTE: CNO was in and out of the office all morning, leaving the office to ADM Griffin while out.
- 1149 Message passed to CNO at JCS: We have been ordered to stop the Zaruwi and search her-- she's at the northern end of the picket line and we're trying to get the Pierce up on single side-band.
- 1158 Sent urgent intelligence information by messenger to CNO at JCS conference room.
- 1209 Pierce not up yet on single side-band

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- 1210 CAPT Sheppard arrived
- 1211 Mr. Hitchcock (CIA) returned call
- 1214 CAPT Sheppard passed Zaruwi boarding order to White House situation room
- 1218 ADM Wright and CAPT Riera arrived asking for ADM Ricketts and departed when told he was not here but in his office.
- 1223 CAPT Kidd called CAPT Riera and told him VCNO wants to be sure that we don't heckle the Pierce or let anyone know we have them on the radio if we ever get them.
- 1226 ADM Griffin showed the ground rules under which the Zaruwi will be boarded.
- 1229 An officer arrived and informed CAPT Kidd that CAPT Riera wanted him to inform ADM Ricketts and ADM Anderson that "we are going to proceed with the action they were interested in in about 5 minutes." CAPT Kidd took it in.
- 1239 Call from Mr. Hitchcock
- 1244 Call <sup>to</sup> Hitchcock with information "not to board" the Bucharest. BACKGROUND: Canadian Prime Minister Diefenberger had scheduled a radio speech to his people and one of the central points was what we were going to do regarding the Bucharest and he wanted to put it so that it was favorable to U.S. interests. He requested through CIA our plans in this regard and needed the information right away because he was going on the air shortly. CAPT Kidd checked with ADM Griffin who said that our current instructions were not to board.
- 1248 CNO arrived and CAPT Kidd briefed him regarding Canadian Prime Minister's speech and the word given to Hitchcock.
- 1255 CAPT Kidd dictated for ALUSNA OTTAWA: Please deliver to ADM Rayner. Your message hand delivered today by COMMO O'Brien. Greatly appreciate it. Warmest regards.
- 1259 CNO arrived. (NOTE: CNO, VCNO and the DCNO's frequently left and arrived via the opposite door, so it is not always possible to be sure who or when arriving and departing.)
- 1308 CNO and ADM Griffin departed for lunch.
- 1350 CNO returned
- 1405 VCNO departed.
- ✓ 1415 CAPT Kidd remarked that, for the record, the Russian ships turned around at 230800A.
- 1427 CAPT Thomas arrived and told CAPT Kidd that he had just

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come from flag plot and said that the Pierce was heard on single side-band stating that she was following an East German ship and not the Zaruni.

- 1434 ADM Duncan phoned
- 1454 ADM Lawrence's aide phoned. (NOTE: Many of the phone calls received involved one-sided conversations which did not reveal any significant information to me.)
- 1456 CAPT Riera arrived and said that another ship was being assigned to the Lebanese ship; that intercept was expected about 1600 and that the Joseph Kennedy may be assigned to tag it. He said that there was no ship named "Zaruwi."  
NOTE: At this point it became fairly obvious that there was a mix-up in names. This ship was later identified as "Marucla" and there is sufficient similarity in the characteristics of most of the letters in each so as to indicate an error in reading the name.
- ? 1555 CAPT Kidd passed to CNO: "10 up; 10 down; feet dry."
- 1644 CNO arrived from JCS and immediately went into a long meeting with VCNO, and DCNO's. NOTE: It was later indicated that this meeting concerned a proposal of a "sanitized box" around Cuba. There were many phone calls late in the afternoon and in the evening to CAPT Kidd during which the term "box" and "demensions" were used. When CNO left, he asked CAPT Kidd to put the following in the records as his thoughts on the matter:
- "On condition that ships carrying Soviet Bloc arms to Cuba will not proceed west of 60° West. Then no U.S. ships of our quarantine forces will proceed east of 60° W. This restriction will not apply to vessels of the Soviet Bloc not carrying articles on the prohibited list to Cuba or proceeding elsewhere; neither will it apply to other U.S. Navy vessels not involved in the quarantine. Duration not to exceed 48 hours. 60° W longitude between 30° N.
- 1652 Marucla reported at 27-07N, 69-15 W.
- 1753 CAPT Riera and CDR Walker arrived and ~~said reports~~ <sup>said reports</sup> that the Marucla had turned around were incorrect and that it was another ship. CAPT Riera said that there was no one aboard and CDR Walker said no chance of intercepting it tonight.
- 1802 Call from CDR Walker regarding Marucla
- 1855 LCDR Ripley reported a sub contact as follows: Patrol aircraft reports visual sighting of Russian Foxtrot submarine surfaced at 26-49N 67-26W heading 060/10. Aircraft maintaining contact. Time 252121Z.
- 1910 ADM Griffin departed

Declassified

25 OCT 1962

Declassified

1911

CAPT Thomas arrived and said he was going to keep a record of what is going on in flag plot and make a daily report to Mr. Sylvester. He cited unclassified messages which came in voice in-the-clear which he felt could have been released. CAPT Kidd cautioned him about the fact that verifaxed copies sometimes do not show the classification. CAPT Thomas said not to worry, he would be sure that everything was okay before he did anything.

1926

CAPT Dusek made a report of <sup>the</sup> intercept situation and said the Gearing and MacDonald had broken off pursuit of the Bucharest and returned to the line. Pierce had broken off from the Volker Freundschaft. Kennedy was searching for Marucla and previous orders to Randolph to delay search were cancelled, and the word was <sup>passed</sup> that the Marucla should be stopped and searched when found, day or night.

1932

LCDR Ripley reported that the surfaced sub-sighting was made by a PSM from Bermuda and that IP and he believed it is a new sub and not C-18.

1935

CNO departed for SECDEF's office

2020

LCDR Ripley reported that the Randolph group would refuel tonight and that plot didn't know where the Kennedy was; also, the MacDonald and Gearing's positions were not positively known. He was going to get a firm plot on all ships.

2025

CNO departed Pentagon.

2115

LCDR Ripley with flash message that an S2F from the FSSFX had a positive contact on the Marucla at 26-52N 72-21W. In communication with the Pierce which is en route to join Kennedy for Marucla boarding mission. He stated that I.P. thinks C-19 is C-18. NOTE: It was later determined that these were ~~two~~ different subs.

2130

Pierce reported in vicinity of Marucla.

2142

Word was received that Mr. McNamara and Mr. Gilpatrick would attend a flag plot briefing in about 10-20 minutes. Adm Griffin and ADM Sharp notified.

2200

SECDEF and ADM Griffin left flag plot.

2245

Pierce alongside Marucla. The two ships have exchanged lights. The Marucla identified cargo as previously reported and the Pierce informed her that she would put a boarding party aboard at first light.

NOTE: Reasons why Bucharest was allowed to pass was political. Since Russians backed off, it was decided not to push matters by searching a Bloc ship first. This was the reason for the push to find and board the Marucla and early efforts to seek out a "friendly" contact.

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25 OCT 1981