



### III. PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

## When Intelligence Made a Difference

### Part VIII

This October marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which resulted from Soviet Chairman Khrushchev's attempt to install ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads in Castro's Cuba. Part VIII of the AFIO history series "When Intelligence Made a Difference" has two articles related to intelligence and the Cuban Missile Crisis: **Gary Keeley** is on CIA's history staff and has written about how agent reporting from within Cuba tipped off US intelligence of the presence of "missiles." Although not always precise or convincing these HUMINT reports prompted the U-2 reconnaissance that plunged the world into its first nuclear crisis.

The second article by retired CIA officer **Regis Heitchue** broadly examines how intelligence worked during the entire period of the crisis— what were the intelligence questions that President Kennedy needed answering, and how well did the Intelligence Community do. Heitchue's article in *The Intelligencer* is a condensation of a much longer monograph that grew out of his initial attempt to write his above article. The result is a 208-page monograph *The Cuban Missile Crisis: When Intelligence Made a Difference*, with many images, that AFIO has posted on its website ([https://www.afio.com/publications/monographs/HEITCHUE\\_The\\_Cuban\\_Missile\\_Crisis\\_Monograph\\_2022.pdf](https://www.afio.com/publications/monographs/HEITCHUE_The_Cuban_Missile_Crisis_Monograph_2022.pdf)). It includes what the US did not know at the time but learned later in conferences with the Soviets and Cubans. It also includes several vignettes about leading intelligence personages involved in the crisis and the mysterious ABC News-KGB "backchannel." The monograph is free of charge and AFIO encourages members to disseminate it to others who have interest in the topic.

AFIO would like to express its appreciation to CIA's Prepublication Classification Review Board (PCRB) for its responsive review and clearance of this monograph.

Previously published articles in this series can be accessed on the AFIO website at [https://www.afio.com/22\\_intelligencer.htm](https://www.afio.com/22_intelligencer.htm). These are available for anyone to share, especially educators with their students.

As always, AFIO thanks those authors who have contributed articles to this series. We will continue to publish articles of "when intelligence made a difference" across all eras, regions, and topics. If you have a suggested topic, email [peter.oleson@afio.com](mailto:peter.oleson@afio.com). Reader's comments on published articles are always welcome.

### When Intelligence Made a Difference

#### Intelligence History Project

AFIO's educational project "When Intelligence Made a Difference" seeks writers to identify events throughout history involving any nation or organization when the outcome was affected significantly by intelligence.

AFIO has been publishing edited submissions serially in *Intelligencer: Journal of US Intelligence Studies* released two to three times a year.

Those readers interested in contributing an article, should email [peter.oleson@afio.com](mailto:peter.oleson@afio.com) stating briefly what event you have in mind and include your bio. [AFIO will identify authors by name and current or former title only—no multi-line biographies.] If your suggestion is a good fit for this project, we will respond asking for your comments on that event, not to exceed 2,500 words (excluding footnotes). AFIO uses the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

**IMPORTANT:** When you send your article and bio, let us know if you have ever had prior employment or contract work within the US Intelligence Community—and, to meet pre-publication review requirements, supply a copy of the official approval letter or email naming the article you are sending us. Without this, we are unable to consider or include your article in the publication.

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