

Cuban Missile Crisis
Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in the
Soviet Union

Washington, October 23, 1962, 6:51 p.m.

985. You should deliver following letter addressed by the President to Chairman Khrushchev immediately. This replaces message contained Deptel 982.[\(1\)](#)

"Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of October twenty-third.[\(2\)](#) I think you will recognize that the steps which started the current chain of events was the action of your Government in secretly furnishing offensive weapons to Cuba. We will be discussing this matter in the Security Council. In the meantime, I am concerned that we both show prudence and do nothing to allow events to make the situation more difficult to control than it already is.

I hope that you will issue immediately the necessary instructions to your ships to observe the terms of the quarantine, the basis of which was established by the vote of the Organization of American States this afternoon, and which will go into effect at 1400 hours Greenwich time October twenty-four.

Sincerely, JFK"

Rusk

1 Not printed. (Ibid.: Lot 66 D 204) [Back](#)

2 See Document 48. [Back](#)

Source: Department of State, Presidential Correspondence: Lot 77 D 163. Confidential; Niact; Eyes Only.