

Memo/Reply From  
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

TO: Fred Kaplan

SEP - 5 1985

Wizards of Armageddon

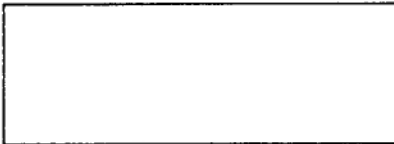
First - may I take the occasion to thank you for a most useful and provocative work of historical scholarship.

Then - Can you help me on a detail.

I have long been intrigued by the motives that led to the Cuban missile crisis.

One key would be that Gelpateri's speech of 10/21/61 was calling Khrushchev's bluff even more than we realized: viz that Soviet ICBM capability was close to zero. In that context, ICBM's in Cuba would greatly add to the Soviet's deterrence.

For that reason, your recitation of the 1960-1961 NIE's and SNIE's was of very great interest; and I have just now read the 6/61 estimate with



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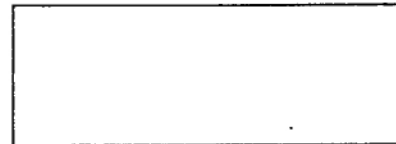
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great fascination.

I have not however been able to identify or locate the 9/6/61 SNIE to which you refer (and therefore not ~~to~~ the code word source that implicates just 4 SS-6's.) I have no problem with access; so it would be very helpful to me if you could identify this document in more precise detail.

If so, I would appreciate that very much.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Lederberg



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