

10/21/62-174.

IFR reply de la Thant

Chel asks part of the IFR reply de la Thant "a certain part of it" diplomatically, it is subject to their interpretation. Saying "This is a matter of interpretation" because "certain Soviet ships are at it for looking at Cuba" & "interception over". "I share your hope that the R. h. will also heed your appeal & that he can then proceed accordingly to meet the requirements that these offensive missiles be withdrawn in order to meet the threat to peace."

While this is phrased like the "rough" language politically popular at home, OFIC here agreed to break the problem into 2 parts: first locating the Soviet ships, then this is done - & after the NO is not in fact it is done - "we can then proceed." This was a clear telegram, although in different words, to both de la Thant & R. h. That OFIC was not about to make a precipitate attack on Cuba, with or without his brother's 2-day trip to Washington. All the "negotiation" about the missile removal was now window dressing for at least a few days.