

The Russian Version of the Cuban

Moscow

Four days before President Kennedy informed the world about the Cuban missile crisis, Premier Nikita Khrushchev proposed a Soviet-American summit meeting which the American leader first seemed to support but later in the day rejected, according to Soviet archive material just made public.

The foreign ministry documentation dealing with the 1962 crisis over Soviet missiles in Cuba was included in an article by Anatoly Gromy-

ko, the son of the Soviet foreign minister, which was published in the monthly historical journal, *Voprosy Istarii*.

The first of two articles, entitled "The Caribbean Crisis, covers events up to Kennedy's speech of Oct. 22, 1962, in which he reported on the discovery of Soviet offensive missiles on Cuba and demanded their withdrawal by Soviet authorities.

Presumably, the second article will cover events up until Khrushchev's decision to pull out the missiles in return

for an American pledge not to invade Cuba.

Gromyko's article said that because of the tense situation in the Cuban area following the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961, and because of plans being hatched by groups in the United States, "The Soviet Union and Cuba, in full conformity with the norms of international law, in the summer of 1962 reached an accord on the strengthening of the defense capacities of Cuba."

A key element in all accounts of the crisis was a

meeting held at the White House October 18 between Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Mr. Kennedy that lasted more than two hours, while plans were being laid in the Administration on how to respond to the presence in Cuba of the Soviet missiles.

President Kennedy decided against raising the matter of the missiles with Gromyko and the latter did the same.

Mr. Kennedy was given by Gromyko a proposal from Khrushchev — who is not mentioned by name in the article — suggesting a summit

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meeting "to settle disputed international problems and the examination of questions which cause divergences between the Soviet Union and the United States." Gromyko quotes as his source the Soviet foreign policy archives.

"The President reacted positively to this proposal of the Soviet Union. He only noted that he would like at such a meeting to discuss problems without a formal agenda and without giving priority to any special questions under discussion," the report said.

However, that evening at a dinner party, Llewellyn E. Thompson, then a special adviser on Soviet affairs to the President, told Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin that "the White House would like to postpone the summit meeting."

"In the opinion of the American side, a meeting in November, 1962 would have an unprepared character and it is doubtful if this would lead to positive results. The President said Thompson thinks that such meetings have extraordinarily impor-

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tant significance and here a failure is intolerable. And John Kennedy wants his second meeting with a Soviet government representative to yield concrete results," the official account said, according to Gromyko.

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