First Search

10/26/62 - 7am (Abel 171) at 7 am, after returning for 8½ hrs with another destroyer, the JFK Kennedy says called the chartered "Marcule", of Lebanese registry but Panamanian ownership to have to. Previous dealings with ship in clandestine operations. This 180 mi NE of Bermuda (Weeks of 1962) on a half-hour a boarding party was abroad. By design, this was a "dry cargo" ship - search revealed a purely civilian cargo. The Marcule sailed on, presumably having been advised by Moscow to submit. But work on missile sites continued in Cuba (172) They were just hours away from firing readiness (173)

Abel says because of this the "screw was turned" by State Dept. officers were not pointing at work of JFK's Monday threat of "first hit action" Schlesinger's later statement (173-4) confirming speedy missile work, the Russian, with JFK acting as though thinking that he had the initiative, his own threat was under the sword, for it put the pressure on him to do something. He wasn't. He was sitting tight. Meanwhile, as can be imagined, the mounting war-like talk of US politicians & military figures turned the screw more - on JFK.

Meanwhile, RFK & Dobrynin JFK "could not hold off more than 2 days longer" (174)