



Eyeball to Eyeball: The Inside Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis

By Dino A. Brugioni

Random House, 1993. Condition: New. book.



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Reviews

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He later authored *Eyeball to Eyeball: The Inside Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis*, (New York: Random House, 1991). The U-2 plane. August 29, 1962: U-2 photograph showing no construction at San Cristobal. August 29, 1962: U-2 photograph showing no construction at Guanajay. August 29, 1962: U-2 photograph of SA-2 surface-to-air missile (SAM) site under construction at La Coloma. Completed SA-2 missile site showing characteristic Star of David pattern. October 5, 1962: CIA chart of "reconnaissance objectives in Cuba." The following account is adapted from *Eyeball to Eyeball: The Inside Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis*. Its author, Dino A. Brugioni, a renowned expert in the analysis of aerial photography, was a key player in the crisis. Working at the time for the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) of the Central Intelligence Agency, he was one of the people who confirmed the presence of Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles in Cuba. The emerging picture of a Soviet military buildup in Cuba particularly worried John McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Of the SA-2 missiles he stated: "They're not putting them in to protect the cane cutters. They're putting them in to blind our reconnaissance eye." The "eyeball to eyeball" imagery of the Cuban missile crisis has contributed to some of our most disastrous foreign policy decisions "and it is a myth." Drawing on early accounts of the crisis, he describes a confrontation on Oct. 24, 1962, between American destroyers and Soviet ships carrying nuclear missiles to Cuba. According to Mr. Caro, the Soviet vessels were "within a few miles" of the blockade line, but turned away at the last moment. This was the moment when Secretary of State Dean Rusk, by his own account, uttered the most memorable line of the missile crisis: "We're eyeball to eyeball, and I think the other fellow just blinked."