The Cold War

The USSR vs. the US

The Caucasus and Central Asia

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1955

- West Germany is now included in NATO
  - The Soviets establish the Warsaw Pact in response to this [Sakwa, 344]

1956

- Khrushchev's report to the 20th party congress [Sakwa, 344-45]:
  - Who will win out over whom?
  - "Either peaceful coexistence or the most destructive war in history. There is no third way..." [Sakwa, 344]
- Polish and Hungarian uprisings
  – Soviet troops go into Hungary
- Suez Crisis

Sputnik, 1957

1958

- Khrushchev takes over the post of Prime Minister from Bulganin. He now holds two positions (he is also first secretary of the Party) as Stalin did.

- Khrushchev begins sabre rattling about Berlin at the same time that he is angling for an invitation to visit the U.S.

1959

- Kitchen debate between Khrushchev and Nixon (July)
- Trip to the U.S. (Sept. 1959)
  - Corn and housing
  - Khrushchev wanted to see for himself why "agriculture, America's biggest success, [was] communism's biggest failure."

Khrushchev-Nixon Kitchen Debate

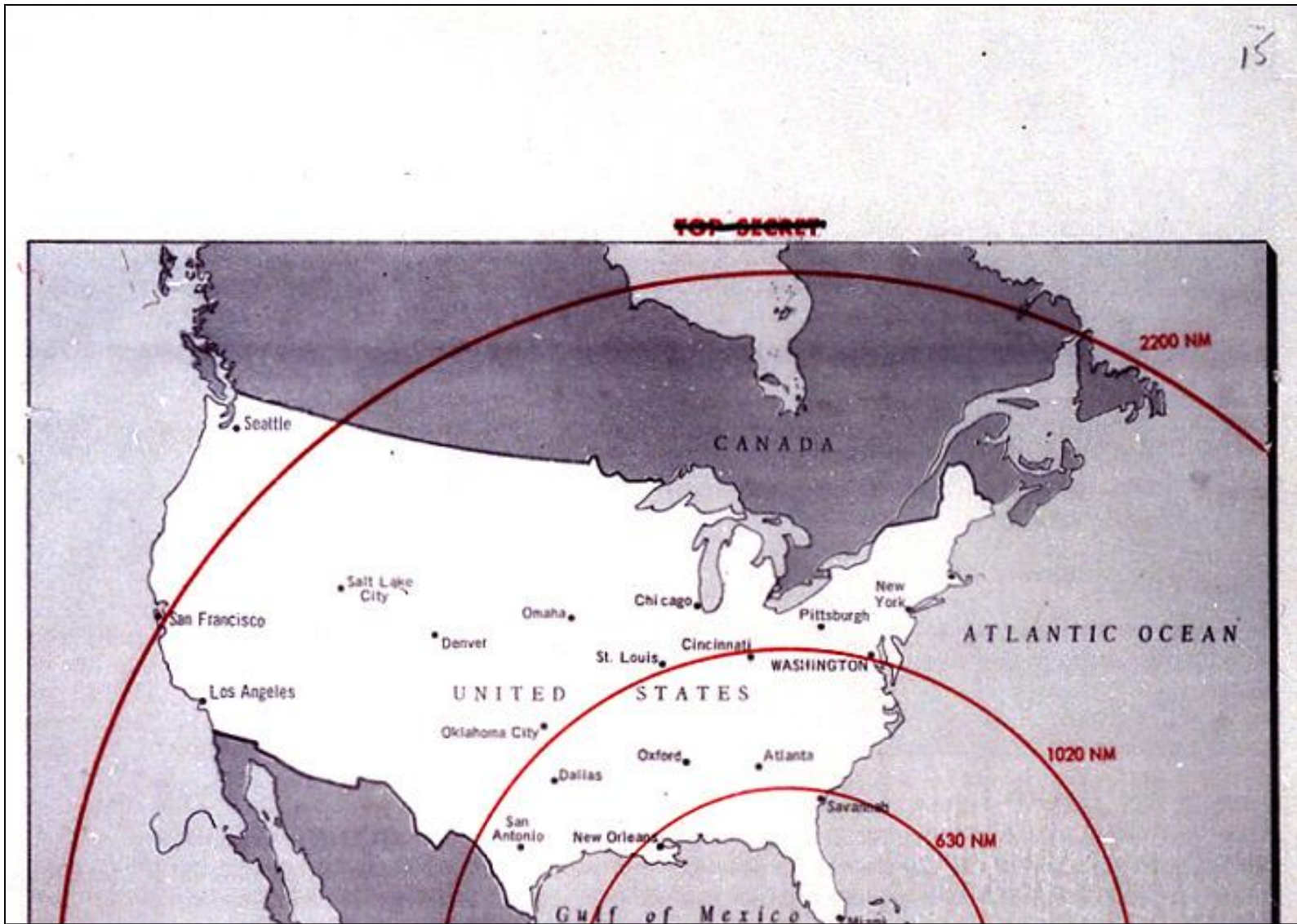This image is in the public domain. Source: National Archives.

1960

- Khrushchev announces the reduction of Soviet military forces by 1.2 million men in three years.

    – Growing dissatisfaction of top military leaders

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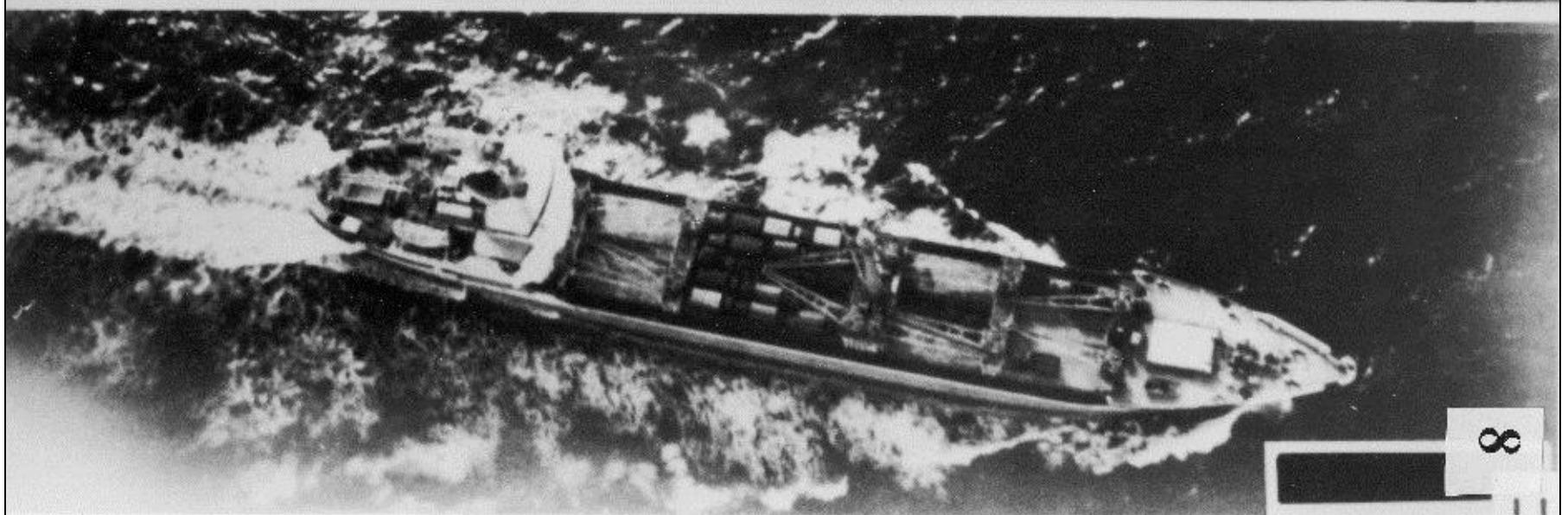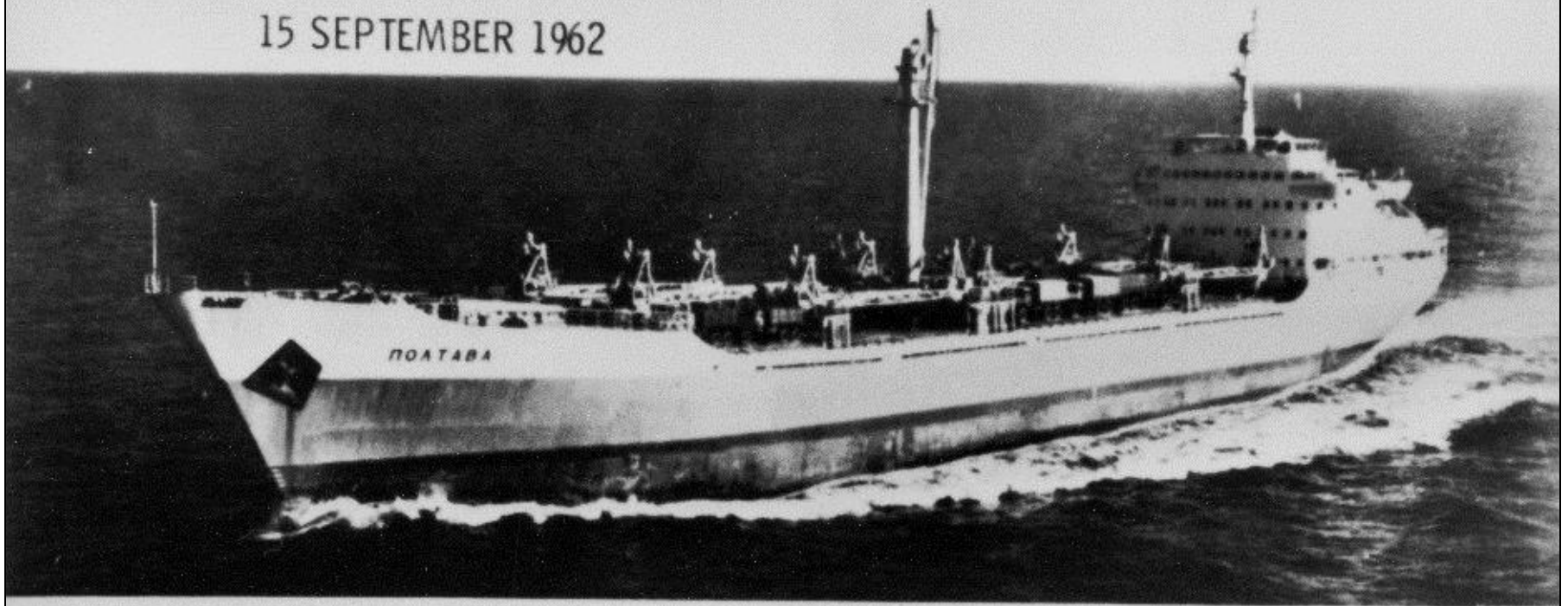
U2 Spy Plane, May Day 1960

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The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962

SOVIET SHIP POLTAVA ENROUTE TO CUBA

15 SEPTEMBER 1962

ПОЛТАВА

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The Cuban Missile Crisis

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