



The Ace in the Hole

by Robert A. Wyckoff

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Late in October of '62,
Khrushchev opted to NOT use his shoe.
He and President JFK,
Chose to mutually back away.

Recon photos showed ship-borne crates,
That contained the parts of Ilyushin -28's.
Then the first of many U-2 flights,
Detected the Cuban missile sites.

There then ensued full mobilization,
And soon the attention of a fearful nation.
Many urged that we must invade,
But Kennedy chose a naval blockade.

We were facing a nuclear holocaust,
Where with one misstep so much would be lost.
To the benefit of the human race,
Neither side made the other lose face.

Both sides in the standoff considered the worst,
We were eye to eye and they blinked first.
Then agreed to back off from missile offense,
And plan a life of national defense.

Khrushchev knew we had an Ace in the Hole,
And confrontation was no longer his role,
For Alpha-6 could launch over the pole.

Written at the request of Eileen Wyckoff and Col. Charlie Simpson,
Executive Director, Association of Air Force Missileers. Artwork by James Atwater.