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**THE SECOND BERLIN CRISIS AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS IN CONTEXT  
OF PRESIDENTIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS**

The thesis focuses on the analysis of top secret reports – „President’s Intelligence Checklist” (PICL) – as an informational tool created for U.S. President John F. Kennedy, and as a historical source in context of two major Cold War crises: the Second Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. These reports contained summaries of intelligence information and analyses on national security issues and were delivered on a daily basis to the White House between 1961 and 1963. They were declassified by the CIA in 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act and now offer a unique insight into the decision-making dynamics at the highest level of American government.

The dissertation discusses the unique character and significance of this source. The main part provides a detailed analysis of the PICL content and examines key moments of two mentioned crises. It presents an interesting perspective on how the President and his advisors received intelligence information and how they made critical decisions during this period. Additionally, the study addresses methodological issues related to U.S. federal law (freedom of information) and other challenges associated with research on declassified documents (including the significance of digital databases).