

Kennedy's Skepticism on Cuba Invasion Told

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NEW YORK (AP)—The late President John F. Kennedy was skeptical about the advisability of the 1961 Cuban invasion right up to the moment he gave the final go-ahead, historian and former Presidential adviser Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. said Sunday.

The report, the second in a series in Life Magazine, is from Schlesinger's forthcoming book, "A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House."

Mr. Kennedy first heard about the Cuban invasion plans from Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen Dulles 12 days after the Presidential election, Schlesinger said.

At that time, the plan already was far advanced and

Mr. Kennedy gave directions for it to proceed, with the understanding that his interest did not mean commitment to the operation.

Schlesinger said that on March 28, 1961, he asked Mr. Kennedy what he thought of the invasion. "I think about it as little as possible," he said the President replied.

"In his judgment," the historian added, "the critical point—the weak part of the case for going ahead—lay in the theory that the landings would touch off a mass insurrection against the regime (of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro).

"The President, it seemed to me, was growing steadily more skeptical as his hard questioning exposed one problem after another in the plans."

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