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# Kennedy Anger Recalled

Publication of the Schtesinger and Sorensen recollections of the Kennedy years, particularly about the circumstances surrounding the Bay of Pigs invasion, has prompted other insiders to tell their stories. Merriman Smith, White House correspondent for United Press International, recalls the late President's reaction to the Cuban failure in these words:

This reporter was present in a small group about a week after the invasion when President Kennedy discussed the situation with great emotion. His mood could best be described as

anger born of frustration and self-criticism.

Sad he may have been, but sore he was too. His feelings were expressed not only in choice of words but in the way he repeatedly slammed a fist into the palm of his hand as he talked.

He thundered at the joint chiefs of staff, then at himself for being overly impressed by the invincibility of the judgment of generals and admirals.

"Never again will I accept the advice of a general or an admiral simply because of his rank," he said heatedly, "because the judgment of a civilian can be just as sound and even better on matters in which these men are supposed to have such expert knowledge."

He vented his anger at the professional military men in circumstances of high secrecy aboard the jet transport assigned to his use by the government. Those who heard the outburst were admonished repeatedly that it was to be forever secret. **END**