

1961 plan to CIA wanted Castro dead

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Howard Hunt, the Watergate conspirator and former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, who helped plot the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, says he recommended to CIA superiors that Fidel Castro be assassinated as part of the scheme. His proposal was never approved.

Hunt makes the disclosure in a forthcoming book in which he describes his role and that of the Kennedy administration in the ill-fated invasion by several hundred Cuban exiles who were organized and trained by the United States to overthrow Castro's regime.

A copy of the printer's galley for the book, Give Us This Day, to be published in November, by Ar-



FIDEL CASTRO
Invasion plan

lington House, was obtained by United Press International. Hunt charges that President John F. Kennedy tried

to "whitewash the New Frontier" when the invasion failed by "heaping guilt on the CIA."

Kennedy accepted responsibility for the Bay of Pigs fiasco at the time, but much of the blame was placed on the CIA by others.

Hunt said he proposed assassinating the Cuban leader because he believed that "without Castro to inspire them the rebel army and militia would collapse in leaderless confusion."

Hunt said his proposal was to "assassinate Castro before or coincident with the invasion." He added that the role of carrying out the killing was "a task for Cuban patriots."

He said he was told by Richard Bissell, chief of the CIA's clandestine services,

that his plan was being considered by a "special group" within the government.

But Hunt said: "So far as I have been able to deter-

mine, no coherent plan was ever developed within CIA to assassinate Castro, though it was the heart's desire of many exile groups."