

Mr. Joseph Lelyveld
The New York Times
229 W 43 St.,
New York, NY 10036

Harold Weisberg
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11/12/97

Dear Mr. Lelyveld,

In the Barry Bearak review of what is really The Dark Side of Sy Hersh it says that "President Kennedy supported a C.A.A. plan to kill Castro just before the 1961 invasion..." according to the CIA's memo of May 14, 1962, this is not true. It states that that so-called mafia plot was of August 1960, which was before Kennedy was elected, that only six people, all high agency officials, knew of that plot, that it never became part of the planned invasion of Cuba, and that although the CIA had set a figure of \$ 150,000 for the job, Giancana and Rosselli declined any payment.

(One of this record was disclosed to me it was publicly available to all, Hersh included, in the FBI's and the CIA's public reading room. It was there long before Hersh began to write this book.)

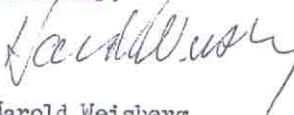
Hersh also says the Kennedy administration was complicit in the Diem assassination and that Kennedy "knew" that Diem "would be murdered in the coup."

L. Fletcher Prouty, then a colonel with the joint chiefs of staff who among other duties handled special assignments of aircraft on special projects, told me long ago that there was a plane awaiting Diem and his family at Ton Son Huit airport and they refused to go there and be safe and saved.

I do not think you'll want to use it, especially not this long after that review and after undoubtedly receiving so much but if you do please clean it up and correct it. My typing cannot be any better.

However, I think the Times should know the truth about these things, thus I send you that memo and the Hoover memo informing the AG about it.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg