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# WORLD

# Files Detail Anti-Castro Plots

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If John Glenn had crashed in 1962 during the first U.S. orbital space flight, Kennedy administration officials — under a plan called "Operation Dirty Trick" — planned to blame the disaster on Fidel Castro and use it as an excuse to retaliate against Cuba.

This was just one of many American strategies aimed at toppling Castro revealed yesterday with the release of 1,500 pages of long-secret Cold War documents. Among them were plans to distribute doctored photographs showing an obese Castro "with two beautes in any situation desired"; numerous plots to provoke an excuse for invading Cuba; and a scheme to encourage defections from Cuba by dropping paid airline tickets to Mexico City from the skies over Havana.

The documents also revealed that just a month before President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the CIA, Defense and State Departments agreed on a plan to encourage Castro's downfall through a coup. The plan included provisions for secretly sending a "special team" of CIA agents into Cuba. Frequent reports — never proved — have claimed Castro ordered Kennedy's murder in retaliation for such provocations. It has long been known that the U.S. government considered covert actions to overthrow Castro, but yesterday's disclosures provided unknown details.

The documents were released by the U.S. Assassinations Review Board, which reviews papers dealing with the Kennedy assassination and releases those that don't endanger national security. These came from the files of Joseph Califano, who served as general counsel to the Army secretary and later as a chief aide to President Lyndon Johnson, and

from the papers of several chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

All manner of technological gimmickery was planned for the schemes — none of which is known to have come to fruition. In the Glenn mission, for example, the plan called for providing "irrevocable proof that should the Mercury manned orbit flight fail, the fault lies with the Communists, et al., in Cuba; this would be accomplished by manufacturing various pieces of evidence which would prove electronic interference."

In March, 1962, the documents show, the Joint Chiefs proposed to Defense Secretary Robert McNamara creating a "Remember the Maine" affair by blowing up an American ship in Guantanamo Bay and blaming the Cubans. The suggestion was not taken. Califano, who now heads a substance-abuse research program, did not respond to a request for comment. A Defense Department spokesman had no comment.

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