

Bay Pigs

There is more to the Bay of Pigs debacle than immediately met the public eye in the United States. If undetected by the official eye in this country, it certainly was carefully observed abroad, publicly and privately, certainly in the Warsaw-Pact and newly-emerging nations, and especially in the foreign offices of these countries. Here was the first overt, unabashed, unapolo-gized and unregretted military invasion of a small power by a major one since the evil days of the Axis powers, barely disguised by the pretense of a "re-
INFILTRATION" in Sorensen's euphemism. Hiding behind the skirts of a motley band of Cubans, some liberal, some fascist, some plain adventurist, soldier-of-fortune types, and all mercenaries, the United States, its wealth and power as raw and naked as its acts, laid military assault against a small and weak country whose government it didn't like, and lamented only its failure!

No foreign office, no head of government could ignore this most obvious threat to the peace and safety of the entire world, and none who were realists could pay the slightest heed to the thin gruel served up as justification

In the United States there was a successful alchemy by which the basest metals of corruption, dishonesty, complete illegality and abandonment of every

exalted national and international principle, the total imorality of which is rare in civilized history, was transformed into the gold of high principle and devotion to a noble cause. Most people believed and sorrowed over the failure to achieve a lofty and admirable purpose, the "freeing" of Cuba.

It may, indeed, be true that those in the government who practised self-deception has so flagellated their minds that they could credit such a fragile ^{see} and miserably threadbare ^{weave} ~~conception~~ of the CIA's loom as a beautiful fabric. These were unworthy of the high offices they held, incompetent or stupid, for the facts were clear and lucid, even in the papers whose single-minded dedication to the right-or-wrong government led them into a monolithic effort to screen the truth from the people. The facts were thoroughly exposed at the United Nations, but even there only after enough had appeared in both the papers and the electronic media, disguised as they were by the cloak ~~sm~~ of United States "help" to glorious and patriotic Cubans, so that any reasonable man knew what was happening, if he cared enough to think.

If there were some in the government deceived by their own inadequacies, this could not have been true in the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House, no matter how the prose of the hero-worshippers flows, no matter how the diplomats orate. There could have been and there was no

deception here. All the people involved knew exactly what they were doing and why. The tragedy is they believed in it. They actually thought they were doing a wonderful thing, would be enshrined in resplendent mantle of history for their nobility and high purpose. But not one among them could have failed to know, from the President down to his least assistant in whatever capacity, that they were shattering the ^{structure} frame of international existence, so carefully and tenderly framed by the bone and blood of so many hundreds of thousands of men in recorded history, so that men and nations could live in peace; ~~the structure~~

This assault was on the very foundation of the structure, the sanctity of the pledged word, the integrity of international law. All knew their bombs and bullets would know kill Castro. They would kill people, and people innocent of any wrongful act or even intent against the United States or any other land; people in their homes or the militia - but people, not Castro; humans in the invasion force, whether decent or otherwise, honorable or base - people in this instance dishonorably misled into believe they had a chance to survive or by their deaths accomplish an honorable end.

quoting very
There never was any doubt from the beginning that the Bay of Pigs

invasion could succeed, at the Bay of Pigs or elsewhere, not among those

highest in this plot against all civilization had created through years of gore and suffering. All the noble pretter was intended for public deception alone. There was as good a chance for a snowball in that tropical swampland. The lobe genuine purpose of the entire operation was to get the United States militarily involved, emotionally so committed to these "heros" and with its childish conceit of its own honor so involved that it would become a public rather than a private bully. The only possible real design of the entire misbegotten adventure was to land American troops on the island, heralding this new ~~scientific~~ imperialism as a dedication to honor and freedom, but smothering the government and the people and imposing upon them a government to the liking of the United States. A more wretched crew than the CIA assembled for this purpose could not be ~~arranged~~ imagined, despite the inclusion among them of men whose histories indicated the expectation of honor and intelligence. They were without a grain of common sense of they were evil to even beginnto believe what they were told by the CIA or what they in silence allowed the CIA to do in their names.

The invasion of Cuba by the United States didn't happen. His own devoted pen-slaves say the President alone did not permit it, and this from prin-

ciple, high purpose that he suddenly found beating within his breast when the entire thing was on the very edge of collapse and after solemn warning by the Soviet Union that it would not stand idly by. It was intended to happen. It is not possible that the incompetence and ignorance within the highest echelons of the military and intelligence establishments is so absolute and all-pervading that they did not know this hardly even planned invasion had no chance whatsoever of succeeding on its own. Their only possible purpose was to involve the United States in a lopsided, shameful war, in an occupation of the hated island, to tell all the others in all the other poor and struggling countries of Latin America and, indeed, the newly-emerging countries that for them it was the status quo or the American Army.

Whether it was the President's belatedly-discovered honor (for he knew about this shabby plot even before the election and was carefully briefed in its details five months before it came to pass) or the promised retaliation of the Soviet Union, which meant World War III, nuclear holocaust and the end of the world as we know it, may never be known. We can only be thankful for it.

But there can be no thanks for the debasement of the national honor by all of those who planned in participated in this.

perhaps most dishonorable of all the adventures of powerful bullies so unfortunately frequent in our history and so sadly matched by the histories of the other major powers. And there certainly can be no thanks for the damage done to the entire concept of international comity among the nations of the world, for the threat to the existence of the United Nations which, perhaps alone in the second decade of the nuclear era, holds the promise of leading the world through the shoals shoals of ignoble ambitions into the third and perhaps further decades of tenuous life.

This was a naked return to the barbarity of the strong right arm most people thought had been abandoned by the world with the donning of the reinments of international law. It may be ennobled in the texts studied in the schools, glorified by the pundits and exalted by the politicians, but it is, nonetheless, a national disgrace and disaster the full measure of bitterness we were saved only by its failure.

Most Americans may continue to regard this, as they were so carefully taught to do, as an unfortunate incident in which our fine and unselfish national purpose just, sadly, failed. The veil is off the eyes of most of the rest of

the rest of the world, both of the people and their governments. What this was, was this meant, what these insane military and political leaders were capable of and actually tried was above all not unnoted and not misunderstood by the analysts on the other side of the propaganda curtain that separates the two economic systems.

Least of all did Nikita Khrushchev without understand of what it meant and what it foretold.

He need no longer theorize about what, in his kind of words, "American imperialist ruling circles" were capable of. They had made abundant demonstration. He need no longer wonder about the reports from his diplomats and intelligence about what the CIA and the U.S. military was engaged in in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam - in every nook and cranny of the world. They had been confirmed in deeds, as had both their potential and the willingness of at least the non-civilian branch of the United States Government. What he need do now is prepare himself against what would inevitably follow, for he, if not the United States citizenry, knew full well what was cooking away on all those back burners.

8

If he had any major doubt, it was whether this was the calculated policy of the United States Government. Did these semi-clandestine intellectual, political and military illiterates of the new world whose language they had not yet mastered speak for the civilian control of the United States Government? Was it at all possible that this was a simple heist of the executive prerogative, that the young and new President was either unaware or, perhaps, unable to cope with his aggressive underlings? Was it possible that he intended something other than what had actually happened?

Any doubt that Khrushchev may have clung to (and it is not at all likely he entertained any) were soon dispipated by the most authoritative source, the President himself.

It was not a waltz they danced in Vienna. Khrushchev knew the music of a war-dance when he heard it.