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JFK Quoted: 'Colossal Mistake'

News Might Have Barred Bay of Pigs Invasion

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 1 (AP)—The late President Kennedy told a New York Times executive that if the Times had printed all it knew about the pending Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the United States would have been saved from a "colossal mistake," a Times editor disclosed here today.

Managing editor Clifton Daniel revealed — for the first time, he said — some painful decision-making at the Times before both the Bay of Pigs invasion and the later Cuban missile crisis.

The Times editor spoke at the MacAlester College World Press Institute Forum honoring 1966 Pulitzer Prize winners and foreign journalists studying at the college.

Daniel painted a picture of a President apparently torn in two directions by the course the Times took during the Bay of Pigs buildup.

Premature Disclosures

At one point, meeting with a group of editors after the incident, President Kennedy "ran down a list of what he called premature disclosures of security information," mostly from the Times, Daniel said.

"While he scolded the New York Times," Daniel went on, "the President said in an aside to Mr. Catledge, 'If you had printed more about the operation you would have saved us from a colossal mistake.'"

(Turner Catledge was then managing editor of the Times and is now executive editor.)

In a White House conversation on Sept. 13, 1962, never made public before today, Daniel said, the President talked with the late publisher of the Times, Orvil Dryfoos.

"I wish you had run everything on Cuba . . . I am just sorry you didn't tell it at the time," Daniel quoted the President as telling Dryfoos.

Exchanges Heated

Daniel told of detailed and heated exchanges among top Times executives before the decision was made to give the controversial dispatch a lesser headline, eliminate reference to an "imminent" invasion, and drop reference to participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in invasion preparations.

Daniel said his own view today is that the Bay of Pigs operation "might well have been canceled and the country would have been saved enormous embarrassment if the New York Times and other newspapers had been more diligent in the performance of their duty."

He added, however, that James Reston, then chief of the Times Washington Bureau and now an associate editor, who was in on the decision-making, disagrees.

By contrast, Daniel added, when the crisis of Russian missiles in Cuba came to a head, the Times, at the personal request of President Kennedy, withheld its exclusive story until the Government had had an opportunity to complete plans to counter it.

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Judge Puts Lid on Suit Against CIA Aide

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld
Washington Post Staff Writer

The case of the Central Intelligence Agency operative who fingered an alleged Soviet spy virtually vanished from public view yesterday.

It was disclosed that a secret National Security Council directive was submitted Tuesday to Federal Court Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen in Baltimore and that he locked it in his safe and gave the opposing lawyers access to it but ordered them to refer to it only in papers placed under seal.

"National Security Council Directive No. 2" was submitted for Washington engineer Juri Raus, who on CIA orders called a fellow Estonian emigre a Soviet spy in order to discredit him in emigre circles. The other man, Erik Heine, now a Canadian, sued Raus for slander.

Heine's lawyers had claimed the CIA had no authority to act within the United States. In reply, Raus's lawyers submitted a memorandum to the court this week. Citing the CIA's statutory duty of "protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." The memo said this duty was discharged by Raus's warnings to his fellow emigres about Heine.

The law creating the CIA also charged it with "such additional services of common concern as the NSC determines can be more effectively accomplished centrally."

"Under this specific grant of power" NSC Directive No. 2 was issued, said Raus's lawyers, adding their "belief" that it "satisfactorily answers (Heine's) contention as to the insufficiency of the Agency's authority." They stated this as their "belief" because they haven't yet seen the NSC document.

Expanding on previous CIA admissions that emigres are intelligence sources, the memo noted that some members of emigre groups receive fresh information from "friends or family still in their homeland."

The memo said it is "obvious" that Soviet intelligence services want to discover emigres with information about their homeland, the nature and sources of this information, whether the sources could be "polluted, so as to impart false information," whether emigres could be "duped or recruited" into Soviet intelligence, and whether emigre groups could be "corrupted" to make them ineffective in anti-Soviet activity.