

Editor
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"More on History" Corrected and Updated

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James E. Keenan is absolutely correct~~ly~~ in telling us that President Kennedy must be considered with all his warts unremoved (More on History and the Kennedys, 6/10/93). He is also far better informed than most who write and speak about the Kennedy administration. But he has been misled in a number of significant areas, most likely by overt or closet revisionists and by ideologues who hated the Kennedys.

To say that JFK's "own" gross errors contributed to the failure of the Bay of Pigs is not consistent with the realities.

That was an Eisenhower administration project on which Vice President Nixon was the White House action officer, in liaison with the CIA's Watergater-to-be E. Howard Hunt. As that CIA scheme preceded the JFK administration merely followed the CIA's plans. The one controverted exception is a second air cover for the invaders. Whether or not it was part of the original plans, and there are arguments both ways but no documents of which I know released if they exist, in the end JFK did agree to an additional air strike. The Navy's timing was off and that came to nothing.

But as the military did not hide before the invasion, there was no real prospect of its success absent an uprising that no sane person could expect.

There is reason to believe that the CIA hoped that a beachhead could be established and then used as the basis for recognizing a "government in exile." For that Hunt was to draft the constitution.

There also is no reason to even suspect that Castro was behind the assassination in revenge for efforts to kill him. From October 1962 on the most important man in the world for Castro was not Khrushchev but JFK. The USSR could not protect Cuba from any invasion. But in his solution to that missile crisis JFK guaranteed Cuba not only against a US invasion, what had the Cubans terrified, but against any invasion.

It was the justified ^{Cuban} fear of a US invasion that had Castro send his brother Raul, and Che Guevara to Moscow in June of 1962 to invoke the "mutual assistance" pact, ^{It was like} so many similar frivolities the US engaged in. That is what led to the USSR's missiles in Cuba.

It is a CIA fiction that Mr. Keenan repeats, surely in good faith and believing it:
 "On the general subject of 'CIA as villain', one point needs to be made. The CIA has never launched any major covert operation except on the orders, or at least the knowledge and consent, of the President of the United States."

I have the CIA's records of its own internal investigation of precisely what Mr. Keenan makes a major point of, "~~plans~~ ^{plans} to assassinate" Castro, inherited from the Eisenhower administration and allegedly "expanded." *They were not.*

~~As~~ ^{an} offshoot of the major ^{CIA} plot to kill Castro, employing high-level mafiosos, led to the arrest of a wiretapper named Arthur James Balletti. That, a separate scandal involving sex and a prominent American woman ^{and man} entertainer, got in ^{to} the papers.

That led the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, to demand to know what was going on that he did not know.

Ultimately I obtained from the CIA xeroxes of its hand[✓]delivery to Bobby Kennedy of "a Top Secret Memorandum by Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, setting forth the facts..."

Sheffield was the man in charge for the CIA. And he, personally, conducted the official investigation. He says that he was appointed ^{head} to the project and that in all the world, only six persons had knowledge of it. *Five plus him.*

Another CIA memo on this that I cannot now locate says all six were high ^{CIA} officials and, as the lengthier memo I enclose also states, there is not a single piece of paper in the entire CIA on that plot.

With the only persons witting six high CIA officials it is clear from the CIA's own statements that it had no JFK authorization, leave alone request for the plots.

The names originally obliterated when these records were disclosed to me were known prior to disclosure.

They are the names of the ~~then~~ then reknowned Phyllis, of the McGuire sisters, ~~of her~~ Chicago mafia boyfriend, Sam ~~Memo~~ Giancana and the also famous Dan martin, of Martin and Rowan, ^{another of Ms. McGuire's friends.}

It is true that JFK did run around. I was for a while the house guest of one of his

