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"M"re on History" Corrected and Updated

James E. Keenan is absolutely correct in telling us that President Kennedy must be considered with all his warts unremoved (More on Hostory and the Kennedys, 6/10/93). He is also far better informed that 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 "on 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 proceded 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 argumenents both ways but no documents of which I know released if they exist, in the ned 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 same 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 fraft the consitution.

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 far Castro was not Khruschev but JFK. The USSR chuld not protect Cuba from any invasion. But in his solution to that missile crisis JFK guaranteed Cuba not only agains a US invasion, what had the Cubans terrified, but against any invasion.

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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 to assassinate" Castro, inherited from the Eisenhower administration and allegedly "expanded." They were mot.

led to the arrest of a wiretapper named Arthus James Balletti. That, a separate scandal involving sex and a promiment American woman entertainer, got in 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 handedelivery to Bobby Kennedy of"a Top Secret Memorandum by Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, setting forth the facts..."

official investigation. He says that he was appointed to the project and that in all the world, only six persons had knowledge of it. Fire flux him.

Another CIA memo on this that I cannot now locate says all six were high officials and, as the lengthier memo I enclaose 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 bwn 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 thefe then reknowned Phyllis, of the McGuire sisters of her Chicago mafia boyfriend, Sam Nemo 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

lady friends. She was an attractive, intelligent and wealthy woman with whom it was a joy be. She was witty, pleasant, politically well-informed and just good company.

She was, I believe, honest and forthright with me. We planned to record an oral history the next time I was in that part of the country but first my ill health and then her untimely death precluded that.

However, she made it clear that JFK fed her no line and she was left in No monthstandoubt at all-he loved Jackie. (FIKe-not for use. He also wondered whether Jackie was running around too, and he mentioned some names of which I recll two)

Kennedys out of the way... but Castro got there first." On this I ma certain that he trusts his sources but they are wong on all counts. There were many who wanted to get rid of JFK and Castro is the very last men in the world who wanted him dead.

Pot only was JFK the only world leader who could defend Cuab against any invasion and prevent any. He and Castro were negotiating a settlement of their differences on two levels at the very time JFK was killed. On the official but secret level the US Ambassador to the UN Attwood (rightly was negotiating with his Cuban opposite number. On the unofficial level, JFK used the French Reporter Jean Daniel as an emissary. He asked Daniel to return to see him after he saw astro. Daniel was with Castro when they got the word that JFK was killed. He later wrote that Castro was shocked and so seriously distribed he turned white he also quoted Castro as then saying that the JFK assassination was terrible for the world.

If the CIA had not kept these records secret- secret from the American people only because Catro knw all about them and gave his evidence to the Congress - we would not have all the mislead mythologies that deceived well-intended pwople like Mr. Keenan.

The CIA sent these copies to me in 1989. Long before then all the mythologies and the anti-Kennedy interpretations of them were well finzed in the minds of concerned Americans.

And they were false.