

Hal, Paul, Gary re Castro's 11/23/63 speech 8/7/69

Under conditions not conducive to best concentration I have read the 36-page translation Bud had made by a high school girl who had lived in Latin Amer. The translation, with a few gaps and perhaps a few words not exactly the right ones, appears adequate to me.

For our purposes, the essence is what Hal gave me and I used in O in NO. That is exactly as this translation has it, including the context in which he said it. The translation lacks identification of the dispatch number.

I feel it is not worth the time and trouble to check this now, but will accede to any contrary opinion. However, I cannot take the time or spend the money at this time to do the copying, for reasons you all understand. If anyone really wants it now, I will send it insured and he can copy it.

My only plans for it, now that I have a pretty good idea of what Castro said, is in TIGER TO RIDE. There I will find it valuable.

However, this gives me a new and quite high evaluation of Castro. It is a brilliant, spontaneous analysis no major change in which is required by all that has since been learned. It is a careful, step-by-step appraisal of the assassination, whose interest it served and whose it didn't, and a remarkably accurate forecast of the consequences "for humanity" and "for peace".

After all this time, there is any aspect I consider important and I call it to your attention. Here, in retrospect, we have a measure of how rapidly the poison was diffused. This speech, made the day after the assassination and using as its source what was being distributed by two American wire-services only, contains all the diversionary information and distortions that are and were the essence of the "red" campaign. It is difficult to believe that with only spontaneity so much of it could have been available so immediately.

But it was all out in the first 24 hours, every essential bit of it. Only minor details were added. The Russia story is complete to the details of the loan and the promise to tell secrets. The New Orleans story has the details of the Bringuier affair, from Miami rather than New Orleans.

HW