

Ydigoras Says He Talked JFK Out of Canceling Cuba Action

MIAMI, Sept. 18 (UPI)—Former President of Guatemala Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes claims he helped dissuade the late President Kennedy from calling off the abortive 1961 Cuban invasion by sending him a note by personal envoy.

Ydigoras, living in San Salvador, El Salvador, since his 1963 ouster in a military coup, made his claim in a statement sent here. Ydigoras said his interest grows from recent articles by former Kennedy confidants touching on the Bay of Pigs invasion of April 17, 1961.

According to Ydigoras, two delegates were sent to Guatemala City in March of 1961 to inform him that President Kennedy had called off the planned invasion.

[In their accounts of the Bay of Pigs episode published this year, neither Theodore Sorenson nor Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. made reference to any decision by President Kennedy to cancel the invasion plan.]

Some 2000 Cuban exiles were training secretly in Guatemala for the invasion. Ydigoras said in his statement this was the result of arrange-

ments he made with the Eisenhower Administration in 1960.

Ydigoras said he wrote a personal note to Mr. Kennedy, asking that he go ahead with the invasion, and sent it by a special representative.

He said Mr. Kennedy received the Guatemalan envoy and told him: "Your President is one of the few who inspire

me to continue with this operation... there are many who are opposed to it and one of them is Mr. (Thomas C.) Mann, my adviser for affairs in this area."

According to Ydigoras, Mr. Kennedy then informed the envoy: "Tell your President that the operation will be carried out."