

Past 9/10/65

Ike Denies He Gave Cuba Plan To JFK, Two Newsmen Report

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed the Central Intelligence Agency to train an emigre army of anti-Castro Cubans in 1960, but he did not discuss a plan for invading Cuba with his successor.

This is the highlight of a copyrighted interview published by Newsday. The interview with Gen. Eisenhower was conducted by Newsday publisher Harry F. Guggenheim and writer Earl Mazo author of a biography on Richard M. Nixon.

The Cuban affair came up in the interview, because of what has been written about the administration of President John F. Kennedy by two of his staff aides—Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., and Theodore Sorensen.

Reporter Mazo says in an account of the interview that the disputed material by both

writers is summed up in this passage from the Sorensen book:

"On January 20, 1961, John Kennedy inherited the plan, the planners, and most troubling of all, the Cuban exile brigade . . . Unlike an inherited policy statement or executive order, this inheritance could not be simply disposed of by presidential rescission or withdrawal."

'No Plan Discussed'

Then Mazo, telling of the day that Gen. Eisenhower turned the Presidency over to Mr. Kennedy, quotes the old soldier as saying:

"There was no tactical or operational plan even discussed."

Mazo goes on to say: "The General and several of his knowledgeable former Government associates view the Schlesinger and Sorensen attempts to link the Eisenhow-

er Administration with the Cuba invasion fiasco and discredit Eisenhower-appointed military and intelligence experts as a perversion of history and a disservice to the late President Kennedy, who never sought to duck responsibility for his executive decisions."

The Newsday reporter says that Gen. Eisenhower's last words about Cuba to President-elect Kennedy before they started for Capitol Hill for the Inauguration were: "You people will have to decide what to do."

Later Meeting

The story goes on to say that the two men did not speak to each other again for three months. Then, after the Bay of Pigs disaster, President Kennedy invited Gen. Eisenhower to Camp David, and they had a wide-ranging talk about what had happened.

Mr. Kennedy, according to the Newsday story, told Gen. Eisenhower that the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the Kennedy battle plan "with a few changes," and that the plan was trimmed so that the world would not see "America's hand" in the operation.

Then, the account continues, Gen. Eisenhower told Mr. Kennedy that the country's prestige and power should never be committed unless its Chief Executive was determined to win, and said:

"There is no alternative. Force is a naked, brutal thing in this world. If you are going to use it, you have got to be prepared to go all the way."

After the Bay of Pigs debacle, Gen. Eisenhower called on all Americans to support President Kennedy in his handling of foreign affairs.