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Hunt Urged The Killing Of Castro

Washington

Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA agent who helped plan the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, says he recommended to his superiors that Fidel Castro be assassinated as part of the takeover plot.

The disclosure was made in a forthcoming book by Hunt in which he tells about his part and that of the Kennedy administration in the invasion by several hundred Cuban exiles who were trained, equipped and directed by the U.S. to overthrow Castro's Communist regime.

Hunt describes the extent to which the Kennedy administration was committed to the invasion plan—which was born in the final days of the Eisenhower administration—and how air support considered vital to the mission was canceled at the last minute by President John F. Kennedy.

The book is to be published in November by Arlington House of New Rochelle, N.Y.

Hunt believed that the assassination, which he said was "a task for Cuban patriots, would leave Castro's army leaderless and confused." His written proposal was to "assassinate Castro before or coincide with the invasion."

Richard Bissell, chief of the CIA's 'clandestine' services, said that the plan was being considered by "a special group" within the government, Hunt wrote.

"So far as I have been able to determine no coherent plan was ever developed within CIA to assassinate Castro, though it was the heart's desire of many exile groups," he said.

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