

My Daily News

Hunt: I Urged the Slaying of Castro

Washington, May 29 (UPI)—Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former Central Intelligence Agency agent who helped plan the abortive 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, says that he recommended to his superiors that Fidel Castro be assassinated as part of the take-over.

The disclosure was made in a forthcoming book by Hunt, "Give Us This Day," in which he tells about his part and that of the Kennedy administration in the invasion by several hundred Cuban exiles trained, equipped and directed by the United States 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. He says that air support, considered vital to the mission, was canceled at the last minute by President Kennedy.

Copies of the book's galley proofs were obtained by United Press International. The book will be published in November by Arlington House of New Rochelle, N.Y.

Hunt, who is facing 40 years in jail for his part in the bugging of Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate last year, charges in his book that President Kennedy tried to "whitewash the New Frontier" after the Bay of Pigs fiasco by "heaping guilt

on the CIA." Kennedy accepted the responsibility for the invasion at the time, but others placed much of the blame for its initiative and execution on the CIA.

Hunt wrote that he believed that the assassination of Castro, which he said was "a task for Cuban patriots, would leave Cas-

tro'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.

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