

# Hunt Sought Castro's Assassination

## Book Claims President Kennedy Made CIA the Scapegoat

From Our Wire Services

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, "Give Us This Day: The CIA and the Bay of Pigs." In it 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 United States to overthrow Castro's Communist regime.

David Franke, senior editor of Arlington House, the publishers, said contracts for the book were signed in January and publication was planned for November. Because of pub-

lic interest, he said, the firm is trying to advance the publication date.

Franke said how much Hunt was paid "is a secret between the publisher and the author."

Hunt, in a newly written foreword, said he wrote the book in 1967 as "a memoir for my children and for deposit in the archives of an institution of higher education as an historical document."

He said he decided to publish it now because the Watergate trial had exposed his connection with the Central Intelligence Agency.

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 Kennedy.



E. HOWARD HUNT  
... now an author

Hunt charged that Mr. Kennedy tried to "whitewash the New Frontier" after the fiasco by "heaping guilt on the CIA." Mr. Kennedy accepted the responsibility for the invasion at the time. But much of the blame for its initiative and execution was placed on the CIA by others.

Hunt believed that the assassination, "a task for Cuban patriots, would leave Castro's army leaderless and confused." His written proposal as to "assassinate Castro before or to 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."

Hunt maintained that top military men and White House officials in the Kennedy Administration were far more responsible for the invasion plan than they admitted at the time. He said he was told in mid-1960 that then-Vice President Richard M. Nixon was the invasion's "action officer" within the White House in the last days of the Eisenhower Administration.

Hunt said that an examination of U-2 spy plane photos showed the Cuban pilot "had claimed more destruction than actually occurred" during a raid by B-26 bombers. But then a "cleanup strike" was called off.