

SUNT SAYS HE URGED MURDER OF CASTRO

NYT 5/30/73

WASHINGTON, May 29

(UPI)—E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate conspirator and a former Central Intelligence agent who helped plan the abortive 1961 invasion of Cuba, has said he recommended to his superiors that Fidel Castro be assassinated as part of the plot.

The disclosure was made in a forthcoming book by Hunt describing his part and that of the Kennedy Administration in the invasion by several hundred Cuban exiles. They had been trained, equipped and directed by the United States to overthrow Premier Castro's Communist regime.

Air support for the invasion plan, which was born in the final days of the Eisenhower Administration, was canceled at the last minute by President Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy accepted the responsibility for the invasion but subsequently much of the blame for its initiative and execution was placed on the C.I.A. by others.

Hunt asserted that the assassination of Premier Castro would have left the Cuban Army "leaderless and confused." He said he made a written proposal to "assassinate Castro before or coincide [the assassination] with the invasion."

He added that Richard Bissell, chief of the C.I.A.'s clandestine services, said that the plan had been considered by "a special group" within the government.

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

The book is titled "Give Us This Day."