

CIA Plan for 2d Bay of Pigs and

Freelance journalist Tad Szulc says the U. S. during President Johnson's Administration, planned a second invasion of Cuba combined with an effort to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro.

The plan had to be canceled, Szulc said in an article to be published in the Jan. 17 Esquire magazine, when rebellion unexpectedly erupted in the Dominican Republic in April, 1965, and Johnson sent troops to that country.

Szulc, a former diplomatic correspondent for the New York Times, said the opera-

tion was planned by the CIA, "presumably acting with President Lyndon Johnson's authority unless it was another do-it-yourself undertaking."

He wrote: "The new invasion was to be on a smaller scale than the Bay of Pigs. The scenario was to bring ashore some 750 armed Cubans at the crucial moment when Castro would be dead and inevitable chaos had developed . . ."

"The existence of the assassination plot, hatched

by the CIA in Paris and Madrid, was disclosed by the Cuban government in March, 1966, after the designated gunman—a bearded Cuban physician and former Cuban revolutionary Army major named Rolando Cubela—was arrested in Havana following investigations by Castro's counterintelligence agents, who had become suspicious of him."

Szulc said that although the Cuban government revealed the assassination plot, it never reported the invasion

Castro's Death?

plan, probably because it didn't know much about it.

The writer said his information was based on interviews with men who participated in the project, known by the code name, "Second Naval Guerrilla." He said the CIA spent \$750,000 monthly for the operation and \$2 million of those funds had never been accounted for.

Szulc also wrote that in 1961, seven months after the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy asked him about the

wisdom of killing Castro and was pleased when Szulc said he opposed it.

"Kennedy leaned back in his chair, smiled, and said that he had been testing me because he was under great pressure from advisers in the intelligence community [whom he did not name] to have Castro killed, that he himself violently opposed it on the grounds that for moral reasons the United States should never be party to political assassinations. 'I'm glad you feel the same way,' he said, Szulc wrote.

9
S
r
1