

KENNEDY NEAR TEARS OVER BAY OF PIGS

President Kennedy was so disturbed by the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba that he almost cried, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. reports in his forthcoming book, "A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House."

In the second installment of the book, which is being serialized by Life magazine, the historian explains how skeptical the President had been over the mission that sent a brigade of Cuban exiles to invade their homeland in April, 1961.

The President approved the scheme, Mr. Schlesinger writes, after he was unable to answer the argument that if he called it off, the members of the Cuban brigade would disperse, disappointed and resentful, all over Latin America.

Even so, he gave his endorsement only after stipulating that there be no United States military intervention.

When the invasion ended in failure, Mr. Kennedy was severely shaken.

"The vision haunted him of the men on the beaches, the men who had gone off with such splendid hopes, had fought so bravely and now would be shot down like dogs or carried to Castro's prisons," writes Mr. Schlesinger.

"The only times Jackie had seen him weep," the historian says, "were in the hospital at moments of sheer discouragement over his back; tears would fill his eyes and roll down his cheeks. Now, in the bedroom, he put his head down into his hands and almost sobbed."