

sincere

Barker's ~~sincerity and~~ belief in the impossible and incredible, his Batista/fascist genuineness, provided an unintended reading on Hunt and his wing of the CIA, the FBI and the kind of investigation it conducts of public employees, the political orientation of the Nixon White House, and the intent and quality of the Ervin investigation.

In evaluating this unnoted bit of blabbing Barker intended as endorsement of his friend, associate and underling DeDiego, it is helpful to remember that he was Hunt's second-in-command, a man who regarded Hunt as next to God and Hunt's beliefs as gospel; and that Hunt has his own record in identical matters. If Barker was sincere and honest, if he really believed what he said, there is a measure of him and his mind valuable in understanding how he could be part of the projects on which he was sub-boss and how he could have been selected for ~~the role~~ that role. This would provide an estimate of Hunt and those above him for using a Barker. If Barker were neither sincere nor honest, then the significance is more apparent.

Barker had testified to as many as two dozen trips by Hunt to Miami after their reunion on the twnth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs disaster. Gurney, whose pne adeptness was blundering into the unwanted and revelatory, was going over Barker's testimony on the Ellsberg "surrepitious entry", euphemism for a series of crimes for which the Los Angeles grand jury returned indictments in early September 1973. Gurney's mindless pursuit of what he didn't understand and really didn't want to know led to Barker's testifying that Hunt "said that I should recruit two persons for this operation.... The two persons I sounded out were Mr. Martinez and Mr. DeDiego...for their qualifications, not that they were salesmen in my [real estate] organization. ...Mr. DeDiego had been a member of Operation 40, which had been specially trained to capture documents of the Castro government and the operation was successful. He had received further training as an intelligence officer in the Amry of the United States....¹¹ Hunt...said that the two men had been cleared for the mission."

Now there were two officially unofficial close to instant books on the Bay of Pigs. Each represents a different faction of the non-right officialdom, each is from the

perspective of the non-right element within the CIA. Haynes Johnson's The Bay of Pigs was described to me by a veteran of that operation, a man who was also a CIA agent, as arranged by Bobby Kennedy. The second work, by Tad Szulc and Karl E. Meyer, is The Cuban Invasion. As Johnson was then a reporter for The Washington Star (since switched to and a junior executive at the Post) Szulc and Meyer wrote for The New York Times and the Post. Their book was published by a CIA publisher, Praeger.

*what was arranged?
RK*

In their fifth chapter, Our Men In Miami, a chapter typifying the writing expectable when their ^{is} intelligence indebtedness, they also deal with Operation 40. (pp. 95-6) From their description, it was anything but what Barker described. It is entirely consistent with Hunt's description of his own role and planned function after the invasion in his personal account, Give Us This Day. Hunt says he was to choose and boss the government in exile that was to become the de facto government after the invasion.

When the Ervin committee was confronted with examining and understanding these Cubans, whose past was not secret, why it did not consult standard sources is a mystery unless non-serious intent or incompetence are assumed. ^{is} Neither is a welcome choice. If before taking Barker's testimony they had consulted Szulc and Meyer this is what they would have learned about Operation 40:

"This top-secret project was known as Operation 40...intended as a kind of 'civilian-military government' that would move in on the heels of the invading army and take control of the national and local governments before the underground fighters could realize what was happening. [Operation 40] also had a second task: that of assassinating, if necessary, political leaders who stood in the way...included a hand-picked task force of professional killers who were to eliminate obdurate elements which might oppose a return to the good old days."

They name only one of the Operation 40 "potential killers." ~~Assassin~~ He is not DeDiego and he is described as "a Batista police torturer." (Barker was a member of Batista's political police at the suggestion of the FBI, to which he reported.)

What we have here is not a document capturer but an intended assassin who was part of a Hunt plot to restore the hated, deposed fascist tyrant Batista of those "good old days," a description that could have come from Hunt's Give Us This Day.

in the available context

Simplified, this ignored evidence elicited by the blundering Gurney, means that intended assassins were "cleared" for these Nixon "missions" beginning with that aimed at the figurative assassination of Ellsberg and his associates and co-believers.