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Kennedy Foils CIA Invasion

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The CIA deals in subversion of foreign countries to benefit the U.S. State Department. The first major CIA operation was plotted over Italian elections in 1948 at an informal gathering of the Brook Club in N.Y. James Forrestal got together with some of America's most prominent financiers, lawyers and businessmen to discuss ways of conducting invisible operations in peacetime.

Under Eisenhower the CIA grew in importance, especially after the successful Guatemala operation. General Charles Cabell worked directly under Allen Dulles to insure air cover for mercenaries who invaded the country disguised as insurgents

but who had been trained and equipped by the U.S. As the cold war faded, the CIA vanished from the public eye until U-2 demolished the 1960 summit conference. Soon after U-2, the CIA began secretly training Cuban exiles to overthrow the "Castro communista" government of Cuba.

Nixon favored the CIA plan so much that he let Kennedy adopt a more militant anticommunist pose toward "Cuban liberation" than he had. When Kennedy proposed an emigre invasion, Nixon worried that JFK might blow the cover. He sent General Charles Cabell, deputy CIA director, to brief Kennedy on CIA activities.

The briefing took place in-flight between L.A. and San Diego as Kennedy campaigned. JFK was thinking about the next speech. He was not really interested in what General Cabell told him.

Nixon lost the election but the CIA-planned Cuban exile invasion was not cancelled. Kennedy was given no choice in the matter and by the time of his inauguration the exile brigade had nearly completed training. The invasion would be presented to the world as autonomous, whereas it was really a U.S.-armed band of mercenaries. Richard

Bissell, deputy CIA director in charge of plans, assured the President that a popular uprising inside Cuba would depose Castro as soon as the men hit the beaches. Kennedy agreed to let it go ahead so long as no American military personnel were directly involved. At the last minute, Kennedy cancelled the second air strike which General Cabell had planned.

Cabell was extremely agitated and he got Bissell to call Dean Rusk and plead for another air strike. Rusk could do nothing. He asked the deputy CIA director if he wanted to speak directly with the President, but General Cabell declined.

He fretted and was nervous until four in the morning. Then Cabell could stand it no longer. He drove over to Rusk's hotel; got the Secretary of State out of bed and begged him to restore the second air strike.

Rusk phoned JFK at Middleburg, Va. quite early that morning and let Cabell speak, but the reply was still no. The exile brigade was already going wiped out on the beaches and there was no uprising.

After the Bay of Pigs there was pressure to limit the CIA intelligence gathering. Cabell vigorously opposed this and he was replaced by General Sylvester Carter on January 31, 1962. General Cabell retired.

When schools reopened in September, 1962, student rioters at the U of Miss protested enrollment of James Meredith and many southerners were offended when Kennedy sent federal troops to the campus. The Cuban problem was partly resolved after the missile crisis and the Democrats won the election that November. After Governor Brown beat him in California, Richard Nixon said: "The last play. I leave you gentlemen now and you will now write it. You will interpret it. That's your right. But as I leave you, I want

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you to know—just think how much you're going to be missing.

"You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference and it will be one in which I have welcomed the opportunity to test wits with you. I have sometimes disagreed with you."

After Birmingham summer 1963 came the TFX scandal, the Bobby Baker scandal and the decision to dump LBJ in 1964. Then came the trip to Dallas, with Dean Rusk leading the cabinet off to Japan as the "diaparo."

The Connallys and the Kennedys got in the limousine at the airport and rode in the procession behind Dallas Police Chief Curry, who drove the lead car over an unusual and twisted route into a bottleneck between several public buildings. Vice President Johnson was in the fourth car and behind him rode Earle Cabell, Mayor of Dallas. Mayor Cabell is the brother of General Cabell, the deposed deputy CIA director. There is no evidence to connect General Cabell with the events of November 22, 1963 because he drops out of sight in January 1962. It would be nice to know more about him.