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The question of assassinations

Part V11
CIA's Deputy Director for Support, Col. J. K. White, noted:

CIA was concerned about the assassination of Castro, interesting enough at the same time that Col. Bissell also told the author of this history that:

I don't remember others. I don't remember anything that came to be known as the day of Pigs from the officially authorized Project Mongoose -- the project remained strictly compartmented and isolated. Messrs. Bissell, Edwards, and Harvey, with Mauzy and
thing of such activities to J. C. King. 

That he expressed this strong opposition to the fund-
this, and expressed the need of the formal and the money
was used to pay the Matta-types. It was submitted
esarette reported that King, nonetheless, got a P.N.
Make the purpose for which the check was intended.

From the Office of Finance and that the money
Division, a blank check when King refused to tell

MH/4 he refused to grant Col. J. C. King, Chief, WH

Deserte, claimed that on one occasion as Chief,

People: To increase Mr. King's force to six

this, and to try to obtain his approval

agreed to talk with the Director about

in the Cuban situation. General

jarely with regard to the dangers inherent

thing in these current times, partition-

protection which we should be furnished

Furnishing the Director the personal

mentioned:

assassination of Castro by the Matta-types, Drahm com-

view which touched, among other things on the planned

ported by the Senate Select Committee. In an inter-

subject of the assassination attempts which were re-

Chief of Operations for WH/4 was more voluntary on the

Matta connection. /4 Richard D. Drahm, who became

either responsibility or knowledgeably about the

created to run the Matta-Castro project, disciplined

component of Western Hemisphere Division specifically

Jacob D. Deserte, who was Chief, WH/4,
HAVANA. I had a helluva lot rather, in
of the Mafia as a controlling factor in
I submit, working for the re-establishment
in Cuba that were working with us were not,
concession of democracy and all that. Those
of bullshit to the Cubans about the re-
more -- Whereas we put out an awful lot
would have enjoyed the instrument very
I must say, I don't think I've just said in
been opposed. I just don't think
that, and I would have
this tape recorder -- with the impression
WELL, what you, I am not saying what
... of the CORPS is not unheard of.
Merchants query about the possibilities of taking
Assistant Secretary of State Livingston merchant for
Contrary to General Cabell’s reported put down of
cessful assassination attempt could have been made.
no objection -- as reported by Mr. Drain -- if a suc
To indicate that the white-hatted guys would have had
e far from satisfactory or complete, there is evidence
official records revealed about such plans. Although
hats, a specific attempt was made to see what the
hate Castro, rather than the Mafia guys in the black
bility of having the good guys in the white hats et al.

In light of Drain’s comments about the desira

"Cubans..."

What will we look like? Not only to our-
Doing here? "If this comes out
What are we
Now wait a minute... to the time. It was part of my job
Mafia, I think I might have questioned at
whether the assassination
A highly
The invasion, would have been a highly
that charismatic guy, connected with
That's all of our
This goes to show who could have engineered that
are we. I mean a truly happy Cuban --
Can we get it that is, can we get a
complicated in the way that we were con-
complicated the assassination of Castro,
than assassination.

Problem understanding the meaning to be anything other than assassination. Only someone (even a Senator) who consists of merchants, only engaged and in coincidences would have a

agency's capability. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was highly dangerous both in conception and execution.

2.

"As the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence,

developed within CIA to assassinate

to determine no coherent plan was ever
so far as I have been able
and said it would weigh in the final
bars as a basis for Cuban exile or Cuban participation in the

Assassination Castro before or coincident

things that the Agency should:

of 1960, he prepared a report recommending among other
that after a visit to Havana in the spring
Howard Hunt cleared, even prior to the Senate

leaders proved to be cold travelers. The Partisan
stationed plots against Castro or other of the Cuban
of evidence that seemed to implicate WM/4

For the most part, however, the various pieces

* of such activities.

possibly limited, direct participation in a number
and theavana, WM/4 records reveal interest, and
"direct positive action" against the Castro brothers.
such report. A search of WH/N records failed to surface any
们 (both disclosed knowledge of any memorandum prepared
Executive office of the DOD at the time of the Bay of
of a special group.) "Take extraordinary and firm planning
of this recommendation, he was told that it was "in the hands
* Hunt alleged that when he asked Barnes about the status

of Cuba reported.

WM/N had the matter played a part. A cable from Santiago
Cuban attempt on Castiro's life, an attempt in which neither
In mid-July 1960, there were reportedly two internal

Having Electric Company. 96

one agent that the peso refinery and the other aimed at the
--

It was revealed subsequently that upon his retirement

ment.

--

spotting rifle with telescopic lens attach-
also checked out this week in the use of a
British M14 with stripper. It is to be the
same rifle with folding stock; and a 7.62mm
single shot, a 9mm parabellum with stripper;
the use of the special .38 special semi-

unit range where he was checked out in

66

was taken to the

reported that he was

tration to make an assassination attempt because it was

agent named 67 a Cuban exile, might have been in

In another instance, it appeared possible that an

many exile groups. * 8

Castiro, but it was the heart's desire of
The plan "no encuadrement whatsoever," 11a
the Cuban to COS Havana, but the COS gave the operator of
using US infiltrates -- was proposed by anti-Castro
against Castro and his adherents -- an attack by four men
It is known that at least one assassination plot

* Some contradictory evidence, however, indicates

It was going to be a ground-roots revolution. *I
sent in there to make an assassination attempt."
but no Cubans were going to be
was going to be 'obviously,' a bloody op- is
that if there was going to be an overthrow,
get involved in any overthrow.
years was to tell them that we weren't
constant battle with Cubans during those
I know of no attempt, no plans that were made
I know of no -- within mirth as I knew it --
without necessarily alarming people
they could do their maximum damage and get
\[itate [as for hit and run operations, where
\]
I think it [on weared weapons in-par

use against the Cuban leadership, especially those
being forwarded to the PM training sites were intended for
question of whether various of the special arms that were
ers was a part of the MHAP program. In response to a
in denying that assassination of Castro or the Cuban lead-

In addition to Richard Bissell and Dick Braham, Jake

\[10 \text{ rested and more arrests are expected. I]}
and approximately 100 soldiers had been at-
\[\text{his in Orange Province. These captives,}
-\[\text{were massed by bayonets and machine-}
\[\text{towards Miami on 26 July 1960 during this first}
\[\text{covered a plot to kill Prime Minister Fidel}
\[\text{on 15 July 1960, the Cuban Government un-}
[Handwritten text not legible]
TOP SECRET

I4

[Assassination] I'm to inform the President of the plan against the Soviet official. They immediately outlined a plan to assassinate the Soviet ambassador to Cuba. When the plot in Miami became known, plans to assassinate the ambassador were also made.

A request forrides with strangers and to be telephoned. A request forrides with strangers or to be telephoned. The author of this history has unsuccess fully tried to

The author of this history has unsuccess fully tried to

objection it. The broadcasts that were intercepted are unsuccessful.

There is no indication that the project was intended to do more. The best way to pick up word of an attempt on Guevara's life was for the Counter Intelligence and Division D after Division D was

A cryptic entry in the personal notes, Dick Blandon.

I phoned following line to Wilkinson for Swann: "No." The WH/4 consisted of 27 February 1961 mentioned that

The WH/4 proposed that the CIA controlled radio transmitter on Swan Island.

About the same time that the WH/4 program was mentioned, see an outline of the WH/4 to
When

This forwarded E. I. By C/WH/4 in Nov (1960).

Pennebaker's note was inserted on the bottom of the paper. See below:

Armando Hart Dávalos - Minister of Education

José Antonio Espinosa - Secretary of Information

Armando Hart, Batres - Minister of Education

Captain Rogelio Acuña - Chief of Intelligence

Beto Almeida Colome - Deputy in 6-2

Movement

Lázaro Peña - Communist General - Labor

Editor of Newspaper HOY

Carlos Rafael Robles Varela - Communist Leader

Carlos Alfonso - Deputy Foreign Minister

Interior (6-2)

Ramiro Valdez Maneuver - Minister of Defense

Director of Communist Party

Blas Roca - International Communist Leader

Raul Castro Ruiz - Chief of Cuban Armed Forces

Chief of Intelligence

The Quevara - Minister of Industries

Indications:

ence炉 lis and identifications in the following order: seven

only as "Must go last." The single sheet of unknown prov-

operational planning concerning a carbon copy which identifieted

actually included in an assassination program as part of its

one final item which was surfaced during the course

such an item probably would not be reported overly in the

an attempt be made on that day's type -- particularly since

the two most likely sources to pick up information should be

which was responsible for interference tactics (would be

counter-intelligence and diversion

...
The former Chief of Operations for MI/4, in response to the question of whether the "Must Go List" meant anything to him, replied as follows:

"Well, I know all these people ... Some of them I know personally, like Armando Hart ... I have never seen that list in my life. I have never seen that list in my life."

Of course, I'm not going to tell you, but I don't know."

The former Chief of MI/4 stated:

"They got rid of Armando Hart and Bilbao ... They got rid of them all, and by Raul Castro ... They got rid of Castro, and by Raul Castro."
don't even know the rest of these guys --
Hart, Escalante, etc. 18/

By way of summarizing, it would appear that CIA's official anti-Castro program as reflected in Project JMATE did not include assassination as an integral part of its operational planning, but would not have been averse to eliminating Castro or other of the Cuban leaders if the opportunity had been afforded. Based on records, however, WH/4's principals were in no way privy to, or participants in, the Mafia assassination planning at the time of the Bay of Pigs.