JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : SSCIA
RECORD NUMBER : 157-10011-10002
RECORDS SERIES :

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : SSCIA
FROM :
TO :

TITLE :
INDEX CARDS

DATE : 06/00/75
PAGES : 132

SUBJECTS :
OPERATION MONGOOSE
CASTRO

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : T
RESTRICTIONS : REFERRED
CURRENT STATUS : P
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/29/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
Box 132, Book 3 of 5, Index Cards, June/July 1975

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED
No objection to public disclosure pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for CIA records.

CIA has no objection to declassification and/or release of this document as sanitized.

PERSONS/ENTITIES:
HARVEY, WILLIAM
MCCONE
HELM
MATAHAMBRE COPPER MINES

DATES:
-11/14/62-
11/3/62

CATEGORIES:
Mongoose
SG-4

OCURRENCE: Harvey states, "On 3 November, 1962, a fragmentary report was received, reflecting the arrests by the Cuban authorities in Panamá del Río, of the infiltrtees. It was impossible to determine, definitely, whether this report referred to the two members of the Matahambre sabotage team."

SOURCE: 11/14/62, Memorandum of William Harvey, (00757)

FILE:
STAFF: PCW
DATE: 6/30/75
NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

No DoD objection to public disclosure pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for CIA deletions (0)(A) 2/18/94

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED

(1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES: Lansdale
Lt. Col. Patchel
Sec. Gilpatric

DATES: 13 Nov 62

CATEGORIES: MONGOOSE
Cuba

OCCURRENCE:

Lansdale states, "This news came as a surprise, since I had no information about the Matahambre sabotage operation since 4-5 Oct and asked [Bruce Chever] (in Bill Harvey's absence) specifically for information about all CIA action teams inside Cuba on 30 Oct and again on 31 Oct so that I could give a firm report to Dept. Sect. Gilpatric prior to negotiations with the Soviets. [Chever] had not mentioned the Matahambre sabotage team when I asked about action teams inside. [Chever] did mention that two action teams were inside (one small one in Central Cuba, and one with about 200 men in Western Cuba), that these teams were under orders not to take actions, but to collect intelligence.

SOURCE: Lansdale's memo for the record, 13 Nov 62

STAFF: PGW
DATE: 6/30

FILE:
With regard to paragraph 2 of Lansdale's memorandum to SGA dated 14 Nov. 1962 Harvey states: "The statement that Operation Mongoose had had no information on this operation since early October was patently false. Specific references made to the penultimate paragraph and Lansdale's memorandum concerning a report for the CIA which he used as a basis for memorandum dated 31 Oct. 1962 to Oswald Kirkpatrick. This refers to a telephonic conversation on the evening of 30 Oct. 1962 between Lansdale and Kirkpatrick, which is referred specifically in paragraph 2 on pages 7 and 8 of my reference memorandum. I have discussed this matter in detail with Harvey, and clearly recollects that his conversation with Lansdale on that date took place as reflected in my reference memorandum. During this conversation there was no discussion of previous operations except a brief discussion of the COBRA and teams and Lansdale did not ask, according to Cheever's recollection, any specific questions concerning assets inside or prior operations which would logically have led to the discussions at the time of the Matahambre operation."
**PERSONS/ENTITIES:**

| Lansdale | Gilpatric |
| Bundy | McCone |
| Johnson | Taylord |
| RFK | Parrot |

**DATES:**

| 14 Nov 62 |

**CATEGORIES:**

| Mongoose |

**OCCURRENCE:**

Lansdale states, "On October 30-31 for an 'Eyes Only' background memorandum requested by Roswell Gilpatric, information was requested from CIA on the current status of all operations. CIA reported all militant operations have been ordered held at a stop, although the volatile Cubans were frustrated and not under complete control. The Matahambre operation was not mentioned by the CIA in reporting in operational teams inside Cuba, although I asked for specifics on militant teams inside. Two action teams CIA reported as being inside Cuba were described as in place only collecting intelligence, not actions, (sabotage, etc.)*

*INB: A hand-written note next to the above statement by Lansdale reads,"Harvy/ [illegible] say he did not ask."
CARd #1

PERSONS/ENTITIES:
Special Group (Augmented);
Mongoose; Lansdale; Taylor; Johnson
Gilpatrick; McCon; R. Kennedy, Limmetzer

DATES:
4/9/63

CATEGORIES:
Special Group Augmented;
Mongoose

OCCURRENCE: Memo from the Special Group (Augmented) from Lansdale re:
Operation Mongoose progress, dated 31 May 1962. CIA attempting to recruit
an official in an airlines office in Havana.

The CIA team in Pinar del Rio province was successfully resupplied by maritime
means on 24 May. "Fracturing the regime has been given priority attention by
CIA. A senior case officer has been assigned full time to the specific action,
and has preferential use of CIA assets. Of twenty-four desirable defection
targets, CIA has found several who seem vulnerable.

"CIA awaits approval for "Voice of Free Cuba" which
it can now put into operation immediately: CIA is prepared to disseminate leaf-
lets on Castro's failure to Cuban population via balloons; CIA requests group
approval for defense support in training of twenty-man teams for possible use in
beefing up resistance groups in Cuba; and CIA asked the group for approval before

SOURCE: proceeding with the counter-culture propaganda under test 33

FILE: Mongoose progress, 31 May 1962 (00335-37)
**NO OBJECTION**
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Cheever, Desmond Fitz, Gerald McConahey, Heims</td>
<td>Apr 12, 1963</td>
<td>Cuba, Mongoose</td>
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**OCCURRENCE:** Desmond Fitzgerald states "The decision of the U.S. government to stop hit and run raids by the Cuban exile groups while the variety of effects depending upon where one is viewing the decision. (Looks at Castro's viewpoint, and to Castro elements within Cuba, the Cuban exiles, etc.)

**SOURCE:** Memo from Fitzgerald to the DCI, Apr 12, 1963

**STAFF:** Wallach

**DATE:** July 2, 1975
NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED.

PERSONS/ENTITIES:
BRUCE, DESMOND,
FITZGERALD, MCONE, HELMS

DATES:
April 12, 1963

CATEGORIES:
Cuba
MONGOOSE

OCCURRENCE: Fitzgerald states "The activist Cuban exiles will probably not be deterred by the order (to stop hit and run raids). They may even profit by the decree. It will now be a greater honor to engage in operations against Fidel. The double jeopardy arising from the threat of detention by U.S. agents and the chance for martyrdom at the hands of Fidel will be an even greater challenge. Actually the supply of recruits for such hit and run raids may run shallow but not dry."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Memo from Fitzgerald to the DCI, Apr. 12 1963
(02620)

STAFF: Wallach
DATE: July 2, 1975
Fitzgerald states it is too soon actually to state definitely what the effect of this policy (i.e. stopping raids) will have on our recruitment program. The Agency's problem is not the number of recruits, but their quality. The unemployed, poorly educated, hungry are always with us. Some of the more discerning Cuban types will avoid recruitment as they are convinced that a principle reason for the U.S. action is to control who fights Castro in order to insure who will succeed him.

SOURCE: Memo from Fitzgerald to the DCI, Apr. 12, 1963
STAFF: Wallach

DATE: July 2, 1975
NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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AS SANITIZED

(1) (A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(UNCLASSIFIED) DESMOND
FITZGERALD MCGONE HEISM

DATES:

Apr 12, 1963

CATEGORIES:

Cuba
MONGOOS/

OCCURRENCE: Fitzgerald states Another advantage arising from the scrutiny of U.S. agents will be the improvement and control and better clandestine security practices on the part of the exiles. But as the U.S. restricts and apprehends these men, confiscating goods and funds, the loci power will have a tendency to move back to its traditional center: the exile--monied interests such as the bosches, prlos and Batistas.
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<td>MONGOOSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>KILPATRICK</td>
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<td>SPECIAL GROUP</td>
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<td>MCCONE</td>
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| OCCURRENCE: | |
|-------------| |
| On September 16, 1963 a memorandum reported that "all members of the special group have approved project[____](having to do with certain[____]activities in the area of Cuba.)" |

**TOP SECRET**

**SOURCE:** Memorandum dated 16 September 1963 for members of the Special Group from Mr. Parrott

**FILE:**

**STAFF:**
Kelley

**DATE:** 6/19/75
No DoD objection to public disclosure pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for CIA deletion. (A)

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PERSONS/ENTITIES:
- PRESIDENT KENNEDY
- BUNDY
- ROBERT KENNEDY
- HELMS
- RUSK
- McNAMARA

DATES:
- Nov. 12, 1963

CATEGORIES:
- Mongoose
- Presidential Approval

OCCURRENCE:
On November 12, 1963 a meeting on "Cuban Operations" was held with "Higher Authority" (President Kennedy). Present were Mr. Rusk, Mr. McNamara, Mr. Robert Kennedy, Mr. Bundy, Mr. McConne, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kilpatrick, Mr. Vance, Mr. Helms, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Steakley. Mr. McConne gave a brief summary of recent developments inside Cuba and Mr. Fitzgerald reported on Cuban operations under six main headings. (Mr. Fitzgerald's discussions of these headings is contained in separate cards.)

TOP SECRET

SOURCE:
Memorandum for the record dated Nov. 12, 1963
FILE: "Cuban Operations"

STAFF:
Kelley
DATE: 6/28/75
NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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(1) (C)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

MC CONE
HELMS
BUNDY
R. KENNEDY

HOOVER

DATES:

Mar 2, 1964

CATEGORIES:

Special-Group
Mongoose

OCCURRENCE:

Helms states that agency officers have reported plans of Cuban exiles to assassinate selected Cuban government leaders. Agency officers told Cubans that U.S. would not condone the planned actions. Plans included: Cuban exile approach to March 2, 1964 by businessman to discuss a plan which was "still in the embryonic state to assassinate Fidel Castro." Businessman has underworld connections with Cosa Nostra. Latter group has offered to assassinate Castro for $150,000. Proposes to use 5 men. March 3, 1964 meeting in which Byron Camero says he met an unidentified group which would be willing to assassinate selected Cuban officials for cash. Specifically the Camero group is interested in assassinating Fidel Castro, Raul Castro, and Ernesto Che Guevara. Top secret.
NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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PERSONS/ENTITIES:
MCCONE FITZGERALD
BUNDY PAPICH
JESSUP RFK
STEAKLEY JMNAV
JMNAV
HUGHES BOSCH JOSE

DATES:
8/19/64
7/30/64
6/10/64

CATEGORIES:
SGA
MONGOOSE
CASTRO

OCCURRENCE: According to the minutes of the 303 Committee on 7/30/64, "It was agreed that MR. FITZGERALD would contact SAM PAPICH of the FBI in regard to the earlier report of an alleged plot with Mafia overtones to assassinate Castro and which the AG agreed to handle as a matter of law enforcement." (116) The reference is clearly to a 6/10/64 memorandum information report from the DDP to the Director, (116) which was disseminated to the Spec. Asst. to the Pres. for Natl. Security Affairs, ASst. Sect. for Inter-American Affairs, Dept. of State; Dir. of Intell. and Research, State Dept.; Director, DIA; The AG; the Director, FBI; DDCI and the DICI. The 6/10/74 report related a proposal for the assassination of Castro that was made to prominent Cuban exiles. The Mafia appeared to be involved in the scheme. The asking price was $150,000. JOSE MARIO PEPIN (Bosch), President of La Guardia running for Governor of New York, would contribute $50,000. CASTRO approached the Chief of Station, JMNAV, and suggested the U.S. government also contribute. This was rejected. The record indicates CIA's only involvement was to report information of its existence."

SOURCE: Last record of incident found by IG Rept. is memo from McCone to Bundy, 8/19/64, reporting the results of FBI intwvs with the alleged participants. "Obviously nothing came of the plot." (117)

FILE: IG REPORT 1967

DATE: Baron, 7/1/75
TOP SECRET

PERSONS/ENTITIES:  McConne  Fitzgerald  Hughes  Bundy  Papiagh  Jessup  RFK  Steakley  JMWave  Vance

DATES:  8/19/64  7/30/64

CATEGORIES:  SCA  Mongoose  Castro

OCCURRENCE:  According to the minutes of the 303 Committee on 7/30/64, "It was agreed that Mr. Fitzgerald would contact Sam Papiagh of the FBI in regard to the earlier report of an alleged plot with Mafia overtones to assassinate Castro and which the AG agreed to handle as a matter of law enforcement." (116) The reference is clearly to a 6/10/64 memorandum information report from the DDP to the Director, (116) which was disseminated to the Spec. Asst. to the Pres. for Natl. Security Affrs.; Asst. Sect. for Inter-American Affairs, Dept. of State; Dir. of Intell. and Research, State Dept.; Director, DIA; The AG; the Director, FBI; DDIC and the DCI. The 6/10/74 report "related a proposal for the assassination of Castro that was made to prominent Cuban exiles. The Mafia appeared to be involved in the scheme." The asking price was $150,000. Mário Pêpin, former President of Bacardi-Rum, would contribute $50,000. MARIO PEPIN approached the Chief of Station, JMWAVE, and suggested the U.S. government also contribute. This was rejected. The record indicates CIA's only involvement was to report information of its existence."

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FILE:  IG REPORT 1967

DATE:  Baron 7/1/75

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NO OBJECTION
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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TOP SECRET

PERSONS/ENTITIES:
MCCONE FITZGERALD HUGHES
BUNDY PAPICH
JESSUP RFK
STEAKLEY JMWAVE
JM WAVE VANCE

DATES:
8/19/64
7/30/64
6/10/64

CATEGORIES:
SGA MONGOOSE CASTRO

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FILE: IG REPORT 1967

DATE: Baron, 7/1/75
NO OBJECTION is envised
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
2/3/44

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**PERSONS/ENTITIES:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Harvey</td>
<td>DDP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Lansdale</td>
<td>Mr. Halpern</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Elder</td>
<td>CHEEVER</td>
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**SOURCE:** Memorandum dated Nov. 21, 1962 (01151)

**STAFF:** Paul Wallach

**DATE:** July 1, 1975