
Agency Information

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10011-10154

RECORD SERIES : NSF

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 5

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : WH
FROM : TAYLOR, MAXWELL
TO : KENNEDY, JOHN

TITLE : MEMORANDUM

DATE : 06/22/1962
PAGES : 1

SUBJECTS :
CUBA, CUBAN EXILES

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Confidential
RESTRICTIONS : 1C
CURRENT STATUS : Withhold
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/24/1993

OPENING CRITERIA : UPON AGENCY REVIEW

COMMENTS : NSF:M&M:STAFF MEMORANDA:TAYLOR, MAXWELL:6/62-8/62:BOX 327

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(Taken from Pres.
Week-end Reading
dtd 6/23/62)

22 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Department of Defense has now approved, with some modifications, a plan developed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to implement your instructions that renewed attention be given to the induction of Cuban refugees into the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mental, moral and physical standards will be essentially those in effect for the induction of Puerto Ricans, with some relaxations. These modifications include: lowering the mental test score to 40 from 62, and no disqualification for dependents or lack of facility in English.

The individuals accepted will be organized into Cuban units through basic and advanced individual training. At the end of that time, they will either be selected for special forces training, integrated into regular units or separated for the convenience of the government.

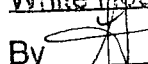
It is hoped that as many as 1500 men can meet the reduced standards. Personally, I am very doubtful that any such figure can be reached, primarily because of the problem of motivation. As of 8 June 1961, 4152 Cubans had been interviewed. 734 had been found acceptable under the old standards, and 122 volunteered for induction into the armed services as follows: 17 Army, 15 Navy, 18 Marine Corps, 72 Air Force. Of the 17 Army inductees, 8 requested and received discharges at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, on 14 June 1962, upon finding that they were not being trained in preparation for an invasion of Cuba.

Whether the new program will be more successful remains to be seen.


MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5(b)

White House Guidelines

By  NARA, Date 4/26/97

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