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~~TOP SECRET~~
~~SPECIAL HANDLING~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

20 June 1962

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~~SENSITIVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL GROUP (AUGMENTED)

From: Brig. Gen. Lansdale *Ed*

Subject: Progress, Operation Mongoose

The Department of State has no objection to the release or declassification of this document in full under the provisions of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL102-526)

Reviewed on 7/30/98

Internal Situation. Your attention is invited to increased reports, in CIA's daily and weekly summaries, of popular unrest, political strife, and economic disruptions inside Cuba. It is suggested that the Special Group (Augmented) consider the value of having an SNIE on Cuba made in the immediate future, as a preliminary to the more conclusive estimate due at the end of Phase I, Operation Mongoose. Since Phase I is scheduled to end 31 July, it should prove helpful to have as firm a fix on the Cuban situation as possible, in determining any desirable increase or special effort emphasis in our activities for the last month of Phase I.

Presidential Visit. State reports that the President's forthcoming visit to Mexico may offer an opportunity for discussion of the Communist regime in Havana and hopefully some change in the official Mexican government's attitude towards Castro.

Defector. CIA has agreed, as a matter of priority, to reach a stage in the interrogation of **Pedro Roig** (the Cuban **economic** official who defected in Mexico) where he can be surfaced to make public charges of Cuban Communist operations against Latin American nations. It is desired to gain maximum impact from this story on the people of Cuba, the people and governments of Latin America, and world opinion. State and USIA will help. Meanwhile, USIA reports that substantial press coverage was given to **Roig's** initial statement about Cuba's arms traffic and espionage ring in Mexico.

NATO. State reports it is making a special effort with the British to break the impasse on the NATO report on Cuba. Secretary Rusk will discuss the problem in London. Assistant Secretary Kohler has told the UK Ambassador in Washington that we find the British attitude unhelpful.

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PAA. State has reported to me that Pan-American may find it impossible to continue its Island-Havana flights without financial assistance. State told PAA that it would re-examine possible sources of financial assistance so that the flights could be continued. State will present this as a policy, and possibly a funding, issue for decision by the Special Group.

VOA. The Voice of America continues its effective interviews with individual Cubans. On 12 June, VOA carried a half-hour program of interviews with relatives of prisoners in Castro's notorious Isle of Pines jail, describing the miserable conditions in which political prisoners are forced to exist. For its regular series last week, USIA taped interviews with a famous Cuban radio and TV star, a poor fisherman who escaped with seven little children, a construction worker, an owner of a food store, and a time-keeper. The stories of these people ring true and indict the regime in a manner no other medium can do.

Press. USIA's press output emphasized Castro's admission of mis-management of Cuba's agriculture, a refugee interview telling how Cuba's consumer industries are being ruined, and a commentary on the drop in Cuban sugar production.

"Voice of Cuba." For operational effectiveness, CIA has selected a new area in Cuba for its initial radio broadcasts from a submarine. The Navy states that the new area is a feasible location for the operation. State has concurred in the theme and content of the broadcasts. They will take place around the end of the month.

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Special Political Activities. The Chief of Operations has had two meetings with Robert Hurwitch since he was appointed as State's representative for operations. State was asked for proposed State actions giving special emphasis to Operation Mongoose. No proposals have been submitted yet; Mr. Hurwitch has promised them for submission on 22 June. They will be included in a revision of the 17 May "Priorities Schedule," which will then be distributed.

"Eyes Only" copies to:

- 1. General Taylor
- 2. Mr. Johnson
- 3. Mr. Gilpatric
- 4. Mr. McCone
- 5. Mr. Kennedy
- 6. General Lemnitzer
- 7. Chief of Operations

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