

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : JCS
RECORD NUMBER : 202-10001-10194
RECORDS SERIES : FOIA SERIES
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : DOC 195

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54214 Date:
09-13-2017

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : OSD
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SPECIAL GROUP ON MONGOOSE 29
MARCH
DATE : 03/30/62
PAGES : 3
SUBJECTS : MONGOOSE

DOCUMENT TYPE : MEMORANDUM
CLASSIFICATION : TOP SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : 1C
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/30/98
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : Reviewed by JCS, OSD, State, CIA.

NO JOINT STAFF OBJECTION
TO DECLASSIFICATION
REQUIRES CONCURRENCE OF

CIA STATE
DATE: MAR 2016

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED



~~TOP SECRET~~

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

5.11.1

MR

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30 March 1962

~~EYES ONLY~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group (Augmented) Meeting
on Operation Mongoose, 29 March

Present: Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Mr. Robert Kennedy, Mr. Alexis Johnson, Mr. Paul Nitze, Mr. John McCone, Mr. Donald Wilson, General T. W. Parker, General Edward G. Lansdale.

The Group was informed of the contents of the attached memorandum recording a 28 March meeting of the operational representatives. General Lansdale pointed out that the psychological activities were within existing policy and would be developed as indicated. The "food for prisoners" proposal was presented as requiring policy approval.

Mr. Wilson noted that a press statement had not been issued since none of the families in the Miami area had been reported as planning to return to Cuba. Mr. Johnson said that State had not made the decision, as reported. Mr. Kennedy commented that the decision was made in a strange way, since he had agreed to I&NS permitting re-entry upon State's representation to him that the action was ready to go, except for that permission.

General Lansdale alerted the Group, for the particular attention of the FBI and CIA, that the situation among refugees in southern Florida was explosive, that undetected Communist agents among the refugees there could turn emotional demonstrations into riots very damaging to the U.S.

On "food for prisoners," the Group decided that State would explore promptly the possibility of a 3rd country ambassador approaching Castro privately on behalf of private relief agencies, the legality of using PL 480 surplus foods for this purpose, and the private relief organizations which would undertake such a delivery.

General Lansdale then reported that two USAF aircraft and crews had been readied for air re-supply missions, although no such mission

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Reviewed on 7/30/98 *mm*

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DM 6/23/98
SSD: NO OBJECTION
25 JUN 98

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~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~EYES ONLY~~

11/21/4
[A] was yet requested. Mr. McCone stated that he was not informed as yet on the CIA readiness to supply non-U.S. crews. General Lansdale stated that the Air Force offered to train personnel and run the air operation completely for CIA. [Mr. Kennedy commented that, if it were decided to have USAF personnel aboard, it would be better to have them in uniform rather than "sheep-dipped;" they could claim they lost their way en route to Guantanamo.] 1,2

E G Lansdale
EDWARD G. LANSDALE
Brigadier General, USAF

