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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

10a

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STANDING GROUP OF THE NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Cuban Attacks on Reconnaissance Flights -- Contingency
Plan (submitted 28 May 1963)

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed this plan, and offer
the general and specific comments and recommendations set forth below.

2. General

a. The proposals in the plan are considered only a segment
of the spectrum of possible provocative measures that could be
taken to incite the Castro-Communist regime to take actions which
would justify U.S. reprisals aimed at the elimination of the Castro
regime. It is understood that other provocative measures may be
considered which would provide an equally just and credible frame-
work for overt military action on the part of the U.S. to achieve
the same end result.

b. It must be recognized as probable that there would be a
requirement for CINCLANT Op Plans 312 and 316 to insure the
elimination of the Castro-Communist regime.

3. Specific

a. Subparagraphs 2d, 4a, and 7b(1); the Joint Chiefs of Staff
disagree with these provisions for medium altitude overflights.
They consider that the military feasibility of such flights is a
matter which should be evaluated at the time.

b. Subparagraph 3a: while the Joint Chiefs of Staff agree
that response to Cuban provocation is the "most feasible" means
of action, they would not rule out unilateral actions without
provocation should circumstances so indicate.

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