

Agency Information

AGENCY : MATHENY
RECORD NUMBER : 178-10004-10258

RECORD SERIES : SSC SERIES

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : DRAFT REPORT--APPROVAL OF QUOTATIONS (2)

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : DOD
FROM : LANSDALE, EDWARD
TO : POLICY GROUP

TITLE : STATUS OF OPERATION MONGOOSE

DATE : 04/11/1962
PAGES : 1

SUBJECTS :
OPERATION MONGOOSE
ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES
CIA

DOCUMENT TYPE : REPORT
CLASSIFICATION : Top Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1C
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/11/1993

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Page 1 only.

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53244 Date:
06-12-2017



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11 April 1962

Status of Operation Mongoose
Report to Policy Group, 11 April 1962
By Brig. Gen. Lansdale

178-10003-10084

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We are in the fourth week of the Special Group's revised plan for Operation Mongoose. There are fifteen more weeks of Phase I, which is essentially intelligence collection with low U.S. visibility. 96

Intelligence collection is reaching a point where the U.S. is starting to get a firmer fix in detail on order of battle, the political structure, the economy, and internal resistance groups. Our Center in Miami processed 1,309 refugees last week. The refugee debriefing center in Madrid is now in operation. Means for debriefing visitors to Cuba, at a number of free world ports, have been established. Mr. McCone can provide details.

In the more dramatic sector, the infiltration of teams into Cuba, CIA reports one team in place, a second team on the way, and two more ready for next week. ~~The pace was adjusted to ensure that really competent personnel go in.~~ It should be noted that this is only one sector of the collection effort inside Cuba. Again, I defer to Mr. McCone for details.

CIA has identified seven resistance organizations inside Cuba, as realistically potential. A hard assessment, up close, is still to come. Under the revised plan for Operation Mongoose, proposals for supplying arms and equipment to these groups will be submitted to the Special Group for decision, ad hoc. No proposals have been received. 90

On political activities, State reports that the Cuban government was made aware that a deal for the prisoners could be made, through the Italian UN mission. Also, as reported in the press, a refugee delegation is seeing the Cuban government, to negotiate a deal. Statements calling for a fair trial and humanitarian treatment of the prisoners were stimulated from 9 Western Hemisphere chiefs of state or foreign ministers, and in an OAS council resolution.

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