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Subject: April 19 AP Story on US/Cuba Files

I picked this up off of the wires when it was a few days old. FYI anyway. Copyright 1996 United Press International. All rights reserved. The following news report may not be republished or redistributed, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of United Press International. By JORGE A. BANALES
WASHINGTON, April 19 (UPI) -- The State Department said Friday it had released almost 450 declassified documents pertaining to U.S.-Cuba relations between January 1961 and September 1962, including the Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles. About 1,500 pages of documents and a supplementary microfilm "present a detailed and authorized report of U.S. policy toward Cuba, including the failed Bay of Pigs invasion," said State Department spokesman Glyn Davies. The documents will be included in volume 10 of the "Foreign Relations" series being published by the department, he said. "Because of the addition of many documents only recently found, the printed volume and the supplement will not be ready for publication until 1997," Davies said. "But the State Department did not want to postpone public access to the documents." A law passed in October, 1991 sets a 30-year limit for the revealing of confidential U.S. government documents. The list of the documents covers 16 pages, and includes 81 documents with a number of sections suppressed. Researchers could obtain access to the list as of Friday and consult the documents at the State Department's Freedom of Information section. Photocopies of the documents could also be requested at 25 cents each page. The documents include several pages on "Operation Mongoose," which was the name given to the U.S. training of Cuban exiles, financed and backed by the CIA, and carried out in Nicaragua under former dictator Anastasio Somoza. The invasion of Cuba by the exiles, who were intending to provoke a popular insurrection against the fledgling communist government of Fidel Castro, was prepared during the final months of the Eisenhower administration. His successor, John F. Kennedy, authorized the April, 1961 operation. Hundreds of Cuban exiles disembarked at Playa Giron, in the Bay of Pigs on Cuba's southwest coast, but they were quickly surrounded, defeated and captured by forces loyal to Castro. At the height of the operation, Kennedy refused to authorize air support for the invasion, which has left Cuban exiles bitter against the memory of Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in November, 1962. Some of the documents released Friday contain a post-mortem analysis of the failed invasion, for which Kennedy assumed responsibility.

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