

## Memoranda

TO: Jeremy Gunn  
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf  
RE: Richard Goodwin testimony before the Church Committee 7/18/75-Box 27, Folder 2  
FILE NO. 4.0.2 (Goodwin)

The Goodwin testimony does not reveal any startling information but makes reference to some potentially interesting documents. Goodwin had an important role in dealing with Cuban policy matters as he worked on Latin American affairs in the White House before and after the Bay of Pigs. He was Vice Chairman and then Chairman of the Cuba Task Force which was first chaired by Paul Nitze. Goodwin was also involved in the establishment of Mongoose. Goodwin also served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the State Department. While a DAS at State, he met weekly with the Assistant Secretary and J.C. King of the CIA. However, Goodwin notes that this was not for operations at the Cuba level (page 38 of his testimony).

The beginning of Goodwin's testimony recounts a conversation between President Kennedy and Tad Szulc of The New York Times in November 1961 at which matters dealing with Latin America were discussed. Goodwin remembers the assassination of Castro being raised at this meeting with the President saying to Szulc that he had had some suggestion about this (pages 3-4). Goodwin remembers the President saying to him a couple of days later that "we can't get into that kind of thing, or we would all be targets." Goodwin also recalls the assassination issue being raised at an August 1962 SG(A) meeting.

Goodwin discusses the Cuba Task Force which he says was "an impromptu, ad hoc group" that was set up following the Bay of Pigs for the purpose of looking over the "shambles" and to decide what to do next. The CTF was not a permanent group (page 13). The testimony makes note of a memo sent to President Kennedy from him on November 1, 1961. This memo was not in this Goodwin file at NARA. With regard to the structure of the SG(A) Goodwin notes (page 17) that it was possible that there would be a subgroup within it to handle some of the more sensitive issues.

### Memos of interest in the Goodwin testimony

Arthur Schlesinger wrote a June 10, 1961 memo to the President on the subject of CIA reorganization.

On page 6 of the memo is an interesting footnote: "We became prisoners of our agents in another sense, too. The Cuban episode leaves the strong impression that CIA is not able to control its own low-level operatives." One example of this is a plan called Operation Forty (page 36 of the Goodwin testimony). A memo on Operation Forty was also turned over by Goodwin to the Church Committee. This memo discusses a CIA agent named Felix training people in "torture and terrorism" without Washington's knowledge.

Also part of the Goodwin files that are mentioned in his testimony is a buckslip from him to Robert Kennedy on November 22, 1961 and another document dated that same day (Goodwin Exhibit 5). This exhibit 5 was the draft that dealt with what eventually was Mongoose. The actual document went out from the President on November 30 (pages 42-43 of the Goodwin testimony).

FILE NAME (goodwin.wpd)