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Date:

8/26/201

Agency Information

AGENCY:

RECORD NUMBER:

177-10001-10297

RECORD SERIES:

NSF, FILES OF C.V. CLIFTON, MEETINGS W/ PRES., VOL. I, BOX 2

AGENCY FILE NUMBER:

Document Information

ORIGINATOR:

OSD

FROM:

OSD

TO:

TITLÉ:

Released under the John

F. Kennedy

Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 55510 Date:

12-12-2017

DATE:

00/00/0000

PAGES:

SUBJECTS:

NEED SUBJECT ASSIGNED

DOCUMENT TYPE:

REPORT

CLASSIFICATION:

Top Secret

LASSIFICATION

rop se

2

RESTRICTIONS:

CURRENT STATUS:

Withhold

DATE OF LAST REVIEW:

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS:

DOC. #21

EXEMPT PER E.O. 13526

SEC 3.3(b) 50X5

DATE EXEMPTED

MAR

2016

JS RE-REVIEW DATE: 31 DEC 2013

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NO JOINT STAFF COJECTION NO TO DECLASSIFICATION

DATE:_

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CUBA PLANNING

- 1. The basic operational war plans to overthrow the Castro government and gain essential control of Cuba envisage an air attack on Cuba followed by an invasion.
- 2. Air Attack Plan. The air attack plan, CINCLANT OPLAN 312, provides for attacks on selected targets to eliminate the effective capabilities of the Cuban air force and to reduce the capabilities of Cuban ground and naval forces. The Plan calls for the selective destruction of Cuban military targets, in graduated degrees of severity. The planned options thus range from the destruction of only a single surface-to-air missile (SAM) site, through the destruction of a few SAM sites and some airfields, to a full-scale air attack against all major targets. Prior to initiation of these air actions, or as they commence, non-combatants will be evacuated from Guantanamo, and the base will be reinforced to improve its defensive capabilities.
- 3. The full implementation of the air attack plan can be initiated on 72 hours notice, and will involve nearly 600 Navy, Air Force, and Marine aircraft. Some options of the plan which require selective application of smaller forces can be initiated in as few as six hours in an emergency.
- 4. Invasion Plan. The invasion plan, CINCLANT OPLAN 316, calls for the invasion of Cuba as soon as possible after directed with the objective of gaining essential control of Cuba. A simultaneous airborne/amphibious assault will be made in the Havana area to seize key objectives. The attached chart shows the concept of operations. Subsequent operations will be conducted as necessary. Again this plan also calls for the reinforcement of Guantanamo and for the evacuation of non-combatants before combat operations begin. Also, prior to the assault, CINCLANT OPLAN 312, as described above, will be fully implemented to help prepare the way.
- 5. The build-up for this operation normally will require 18 days, if no alerting actions have been taken. With prepositioning of military forces, and transport resources, this reaction time can be reduced to 7 days. Since the availability of shipping is a critical limiting factor, to achieve the reduced response would require requisitioning and prepositioning of commercial vessels.





- 6. The invasion forces may total some 266,000 US military personnel, depending upon the degree of Cuban resistance. Of these forces, 121,000 would come from the Army; 70,000 from the Navy; 24,000 from the Air Force; and 51,000 from the Marines.
- 7. The Joint Chiefs of Staff would like to review these plans with the President and discuss any questions he may have.