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Agency Information

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR: CIA  
FROM: HARVEY, WILLIAM K.  
TO: DCI

TITLE: CHRONOLOGY OF THE MATAHAMBRE SABOTAGE OPERATION

DATE: 11/21/1962  
PAGES: 4

SUBJECTS:

CIA  
ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES  
DOD  
OPERATION MONGOOSE

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REQUIRES CONCURRENCE OF

*CIA*  
DATE: MAR 2016

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21 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Plans) *jt*  
SUBJECT: Chronology of the Matahambre Sabotage  
Operation

REFERENCES: A. Memorandum to the Special Group  
(Augmented) from Brigadier General  
Lansdale dated 14 November 1962  
B. My Memorandum to you dated 14 November  
1962

1. Action: This memorandum is for your information and  
pursuant to your request.

2. Pursuant to your request relayed through Mr. Walter  
Elder, set out below are additional comments referring to the  
chronology in referenced memorandum. These comments are keyed  
to the paragraphs concerning which you raised specific questions.

(9) My operational diary reflects that Lansdale  
was advised of our plans for re-run of the Matahambre  
operation on this date. In addition, the memorandum  
dated 19 September 1962 to the Acting Director of  
Central Intelligence referred to in paragraph 10 of  
referenced memorandum specifically states that the  
information contained in that memorandum was passed  
informally to Lansdale on 18 September 1962.

(10) Attached is the original of the 19 September  
1962 memorandum to the Acting DCI with his notation  
concerning briefing the Special Group (Augmented).  
You will note that this memorandum reflects that the  
information therein was passed to Lansdale on 18 Septem-  
ber 1962 and that the memorandum reflects that a copy  
thereof was sent to Lansdale. The Special Group (Aug-  
mented) was, as you will recall, advised of our plans



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to re-run this operation at its meeting on 4 October 1962.

(11) Attached is a copy of General Lansdale's memorandum dated 20 September 1962 which was in response to the memorandum referred to in the above paragraph. My operational notes reflect that this memorandum, after receipt, was discussed with Lansdale and the major question was whether or not the team could not have performed an alternate mission at the time it was inside. He was advised orally that in view of operational conditions it could not have.

(13) Attached is a copy of the 11 October 1962 memorandum to Lansdale.

(16) My operational diary reflects that Lansdale was briefed on 17 October 1962 on our plans to re-run the Matahambre Operation within the ensuing few days. Mr. Helms, who was present at this meeting, also recalls this.

(17) The advice to the Attorney General on 18 October 1962 in the presence of Lansdale is reflected by my operational diary notes. Mr. Helms who was also present recalls this.

(19) My operational diary reflects a long discussion on 20 October 1962 with Lansdale, in which he was specifically told that we were re-running the Matahambre Operation and that the Matahambre Operation along with the Galefre Bridge Operation, which we then were still considering, were the only two sabotage operations which we felt we could undertake at that time in view of the changed conditions.

(21), (22), (23), (24) This chronology was not fully known to Lansdale at the time, nor was it fully known to Task Force W until the return of the operational team to the Miami area on 24 October.

(27) The 24 October 1962 Weekly Report which contained the general comment on this operation did go to Lansdale's office and other appropriate members of the Special Group (Augmented).

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(28) I have carefully questioned Mr. Halpern, Executive Officer/TFW, on this briefing and he distinctly recalls advising Lansdale orally on the morning of 26 October 1962 that the Matahambre Operation had been re-run; that we had not heard from the team; had not been able to recover the team, and must presume the team to be either lost or in hiding.

(29) The mention of the Matahambre Operation, as best I can recall, at the meeting of the Special Group (Augmented) came up in an aside, I believe from General Taylor, who asked in effect, "Whatever happened to that sabotage operation", and was advised orally that it had been re-run; that the caching part of the operation had been successful, but that the sabotage team had not been heard from the must be presumed lost. Unfortunately, my operational diary notes on this point reflect only that the Matahambre Operation was mentioned casually at the Special Group (Augmented) meeting.

3. All of the comments contained in the chronology in reference memorandum are substantiated either by memoranda, operational notes, or operational diary records.

4. As you are aware, my memorandum to you dated 14 November 1962 was prepared prior to the receipt of Lansdale's memorandum and was not designed as an answer to it. Set out below for your further information are pertinent comments concerning the specific points made in Lansdale's memorandum.

a. With regard to paragraph 2 of Lansdale's memorandum as reflected by reference chronology, the statement that Operation Mongoose had had no information on this operation since early October was patently false. Specific reference is made to the penultimate paragraph in Lansdale's memorandum concerning a report from CIA which he used as a basis for a memorandum dated 31 October 1962 to Mr. Roswell Gilpatrick. This refers to the telephonic conversation on the evening of 30 October 1962 between Lansdale and Mr. Bruce Cheever, Deputy Chief/TFW, which is referred to specifically in

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paragraph 2 on pages 7 and 8 of my reference memorandum. I have discussed this matter in detail with Mr. Cheever and he clearly recollects that his conversation with Lansdale on that date took place as reflected in my reference memorandum. During this conversation there was no discussion of previous operations except a brief discussion of the COBRA and AMTORRID teams and Lansdale did not, according to Mr. Cheever's recollection, ask any specific questions concerning assets inside or prior operations which would logically have lead to any further discussions at that time of the Matahambre Operation.

*William K. Harvey*

WILLIAM K. HARVEY  
Chief, Task Force W

Attachments

cc: DD/P  
DDCI



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