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CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RELEASE IN FULL 2000

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

14 February 1997

NOTE FOR:

David Marwell

ARRB

FROM:

John Pereira

CIA

STIR.TECT.

Release of Bay of Pigs Records

As we discussed, CIA plans to begin releasing to the National Archives declassified records related to the Bay of Pigs covert action. This is part of the Agency's Historical Review Program, which focuses on declassifying records of historical value.

Attached for the ARRB's information is a brief description of the records that we expect to release first, probably within the next few weeks. We expect to make a public announcement once the date for transfer of the records to NARA is firm.

John P.

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RELEASE IN FULL 2000

Release of CIA Records Pertaining to the Bay of Pigs Covert Action

The Center for the Study of Intelligence is releasing to the National Archives approximately 5,000 pages of declassified CIA records regarding the covert action culminating in the paramilitary invasion of Cuba in April 1961 at the Bay of Pigs. The Center anticipates releasing further records after completion of additional declassification reviews.

The documents contained in the initial release include the Agency's "official history" of the Bay of Pigs by Jack B. Pfeiffer, accompanied by the author's research notes. A second paper consists of an after-action assessment prepared shortly after the Bay of Pigs landing by the official primarily responsible for preparing the plans for the paramilitary action. Finally, the Center is releasing the report of CIA's Inspector General, issued in November 1961 and the response of the Directorate of Plans in January 1962.

Together, these records provide a general overview of developments leading up to the policy decision to initiate a covert action directed at the Castro regime in Cuba, the evolution of CIA plans to carry out the decision, and internal post-mortems into the failed invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

5 February 1997