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Date: 08/28/98

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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

Released under the John

F. Kennedy

Assassination Records

Collection Act of 1992

(44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 54214 Date:

p9-13-2017

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : OSD

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : DOC 195

FROM:

TO:

AGENCY : JCS

RECORDS SERIES : FOIA SERIES

RECORD NUMBER : 202-10001-10194

TITLE: MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SPECIAL GROUP ON MONGOOSE 29

1. 4

MARCH

DATE : 03/30/62

PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS : MONGOOSE

DOCUMENT TYPE : MEMORANDUM CLASSIFICATION : TOP SECRET

RESTRICTIONS : 1C

CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/30/98

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS: Reviewed by JCS, OSD, State, CIA.

NO JOINT STAFF OBJECTION
TO DECLASSIFICATION
REQUIRES CONCURRENCE OF

DATE: MAR 2016

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mi

30 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group (Augmented) Meeting on Operation Mongoose, 29 March

Present: Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Mr. Robert Kennedy, Mr. Alexis Johnson, Mr. Paul Nitze, Mr. John McCone, Mr. Donald Wilson, General T. W. Parker, General Edward G. Lansdale.

The Group was informed of the contents of the attached memorandum recording a 28 March meeting of the operational representatives. General Lansdale pointed out that the psychological activities were within existing policy and would be developed as indicated. The "food for prisoners" proposal was presented as requiring policy approval.

Mr. Wilson noted that a press statement had not been issued since none of the families in the Miami area had been reported as planning to return to Cuba. Mr. Johnson said that State had not made the decision, as reported. Mr. Kennedy commented that the decision was made in a strange way, since he had agreed to I&NS permitting re-entry upon State's representation to him that the action was ready to go, except for that permission.

General Lansdale alerted the Group, for the particular attention of the FBI and CIA, that the situation among refugees in southern Florida was explosive, that undetected Communist agents among the refugees there could turn emotional demonstrations into riots very damaging to the U.S.

On "food for prisoners," the Group decided that State would explore promptly the possibility of a 3rd country ambassador approaching Castro privately on behalf of private relief agencies, the legality of using PL 480 surplus foods for this purpose, and the private relief organizations which would undertake such a delivery.

General Lansdale then reported that two USAF aircraft and crewsbeen readied for air re-supply missions, although no such mission

AOC# 1951 2 PP

The Department of State has no objection to the release or declassification of this document in full under the provisions of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL102-526)

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was yet requested. Mr. McCone stated that he was not informed as yet on the CIA readiness to supply non-U.S. crews. General Lansdale stated that the Air Force offered to train personnel and run the air operation completely for CIA. Mr. Kennedy commented that, if it were decided to have USAF personnel aboard, it would be better to have them in uniform rather than "sheep-dipped;" these fould claim they lost their way en route to Guantanamo.

[A]

EDWARD G. LANSDALE Brigadier General, USAF

30 March 1962



WASHINGTON 25. D. C.

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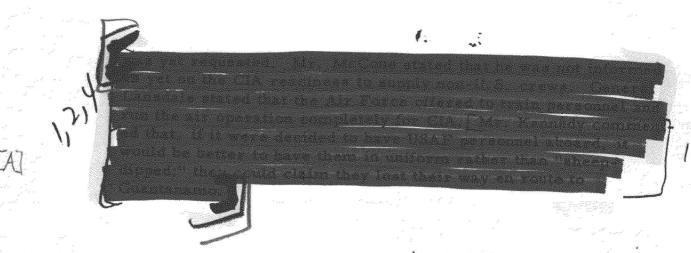
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