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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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OPERATION MONGOOSE
CASTRO[R]
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COMMENTS :
Box 141, Book 1 of 3, Index Cards dated June/July 1975-----
[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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AS SANITIZED

88 3/29/94

<u>PERSONS/ENTITIES:</u>	<u>DATES:</u> 26 Oct 1962	<u>CATEGORIES:</u> Mongoose Special Group (Augmented) Cuba
Parrot ✓		

OCCURRENCE:

Parrot states that the CIA has 11 "assests" aboard Cuban owned ships. Action orders (i.e. sinking in Cuban or bloc ports or high seas - sabotaging cargos - making crews inoperative) have gone to ~~Hamburg~~ for action. Other action pending.

SECRET

<u>SOURCE:</u> memorandum prepared by Parrot titled "Operation Mongoose - Main Points to Consider," dated Oct 26, 1962.	<u>STAFF:</u> PGW
	<u>DATE:</u> 6/29

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67 3/29/94

No DoD objection to public disclosure
pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for
3/28/94

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Fletcher Prouty

DATES:

Dec 1959

CATEGORIES:

Castro

OCCURRENCE:

Sometime between December 1959 and February 1960 Fletcher Prouty, the Air Force Liaison officer to the CIA was approached by the Air Division of the Covert Action staff of the CIA who said they had a special job requiring Air Force support and they wanted an L-28 airplane. The CIA people said they had a place to land in Cuba and they wanted to let 2 men out there and then fly the plane back to ~~Eight Air Force Base~~ Eight Air Force Base. The men to be landed in Cuba would be equipped with a high-powered rifle and a telescopic site. The object of the mission was to go to a building in Havana and to shoot Castro. The men were Cubans.

SOURCE:

Staff interview of Rockefeller Commission on May 15, 1975

STAFF:

Kelley

DATE: June 30, 1975

FILE:

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AS SANITIZED

6 Apr 74
(C)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
<p>SPECIAL GROUP AUGMENTED, MONGOOSE, Lansdale), TAYLOR, JOHNSON, GIL- PATRICK, MCCONE, RFK, LEMNITZER, W. ROYCE, RUSK, KOHLER, (HURWITZ)</p>	<p>June 20, 1962 July 31, 1962 June 12, 1962 May 17, 1962</p>	<p>Special Group Augmented MONGOOSE</p>

OCCURRENCE:

Due to reports of popular unrest, political strife, and economic disruptions inside Cuba, it was suggested that the Special Group Augmented consider the value of having an SNIE on Cuba made in the immediate future. The CIA has agreed as a matter of priority to reach a stage in the interrogation of Pedro Ronga where he can be surfaced to make public charges of Cuban Communist operations against Latin American nations. For operational effectiveness, the CIA has selected a new area in Cuba for its initial radio broadcasts from a submarine for "Voice of Cuba." The Navy states that the new area is feasible and State has concurred in the theme and content of the broadcast. They will take place around the end of the month. No proposals for actions by the Department of State have been submitted since the appointment of State's special representative, Mr. Hurwitch. They are expected on June 22, 1962.

SOURCE: Memorandum for the Special Group Augmented
From Lansdale re: Progress, Operation MONGOOSE, 20 June 1962
(00397-00398)

STAFF:

di Genova
DATE: July 1, 1975

FILE:

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AS SANITIZED

6 Apr 74
(1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

HARVEY, LANSDALE

Henry Lansdale

DATES:

June 19, 1962

CATEGORIES:

MONGOOSE

OCCURRENCE: It was agreed that Harvey was to work towards reaching a stage in the interrogation of Pedro Roig, the Cuban economic official who defected to Mexico, where he can be surfaced to make public charges of Cuban Communist operations against Latin American nations. Harvey was to generate a story from Cuban refugee sources that the original Cardenas incident consisted of a demonstration concerning the shortage of food. This was to cause ridicule of the Communist regime's use of MIGs, tanks and troops against the unarmed people of Cardenas. "The Cuban source to story need not await your determination of the true cause of the Cardenas demonstration."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE:

Memorandum for William Harvey, CIA, from Lansdale, re: Impact Actions, 19 June 1962 (00395)

STAFF:

di Genova
DATE: July 1, 1975

FILE:

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6 Apr 94
(1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
<p>SPECIAL GROUP AUGMENTED, MONGOOSE, Lansdale, TAYLOR, JOHNSON, GIL- PATRICK, MCCONE, RFK, LEMNITZER, ROGERS, RUSK, KOHLER, HURWITCH</p>	<p>June 20, 1962 ✓ July 31, 1962 June 12, 1962 May 17, 1962</p>	<p>Special Group Augmented MONGOOSE June 22, 1962</p>
<p><u>OCCURRENCE:</u> Due to reports of popular unrest, political strife, and economic disruptions inside Cuba, it was suggested that the Special Group Augmented consider the value of having an SNIE on Cuba made in the immediate future. The CIA has agreed as a matter of priority to reach a stage in the interrogation of Pedro Roig where he can be surfaced to make public charges of Cuban Communist operations against Latin American nations. For operational effectiveness, the CIA has selected a new area in Cuba for its initial radio broadcasts from a submarine for "Voice of Cuba." The Navy states that the new area is feasible and State has concurred in the theme and content of the broadcast. They will take place around the end of the month. No proposals for actions by the Department of State have been submitted since the appointment of State's special representative, Mr. Hurwitch. They are expected on June 22, 1962.</p>		

SOURCE: Memorandum for the Special Group Augmented
From Lansdale re: Progress, Operation MONGOOSE, 20 June 1962
(00397-00398)

FILE:

STAFF:
di Genova

DATE: July 1, 1975

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6 Apr 94
(1)CA

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(See the 13 names listed below)

TOP SECRET

DATES:

FEB. 1961
(APPROXIMATE)

CATEGORIES: TOP SECRET

Cuba
-CUBA - PHASE I
(Card 1)

OCCURRENCE:

The I.G. REPORT identified the following persons who knew, in late 1960 or early 1961, of the PHASE I plan to assassinate CASTRO:

1. ALLEN DULLES, DCI
 2. GEN. C. P. CABELL, DDCI
 3. RICHARD BISSELL, DD/P
 4. SHEFFIELD EDWARDS, D/Security
 5. JAMES O'CONNELL, Office of Security, the case officer
 6. J. D. ESTERLINE, Chief, WH/4
 7. CORNELIUS ROOSEVELT, Chief, TSD ✓
 8. ~~FRANK FRIEDLICH~~ CHILDER, Chemical Division, TSD
 9. EDWARD GUNN, Chief, Operations Division, Medical Services
10. WILLIAM HARVEY, Chief, FI/D
11. SIDNEY GOTTLIEB, Special Assistant to the DD/P (GOTTLIEB's name was encountered repeatedly in this inquiry, but he denies knowing of the operation in 1960-61.)
12. ROBERT BANNERMAN, DD/Security
13. J. C. KING, Chief, WH Division (He too denies knowing of the operation at the time.)

SOURCE: I.G. REPORT 1967, pp. 34-35

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 28.6.75

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AS SANITIZED

6 Apr 74
(1)CA

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AS SANITIZED

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Sam Gold Dr. Edward Gunn

Juan Orta
~~Dr. Raymond Treichler~~
Cornelius Roosevelt

DATES:

September 25, 1961 Castro

CATEGORIES:

OCCURRENCE: In discussing the possible methods of accomplishing the mission, Sam Gold suggested that they not resort to firearms, but "eat" if he could be furnished with some type of potent pill that could be placed in Castro's food or drink. Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official, who had been receiving back payments from the gambling interests who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind. Cornelius Roosevelt, Chief, TSD was consulted and assigned Dr. Raymond Treichler to develop a pill that had the elements of rapid solubility, high lethal content, and little or no traceability. Six of these items were produced and after being checked out for their effectiveness by Dr. Edward M. Gunn, three pills were ultimately turned over to Sam for the mission. Neither TSD nor Dr. Gunn was briefed on the ultimate use of the pills.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: CIA Justice File R-153 Memorandum by Howard J. Osborn
to Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, Subj: Robert A. Maheu
dated June 24, 1966.

STAFF: Rhea

DATE: July 1, 1975

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as submitted
of March 15 94
A(c)

<p><u>PERSONS/ENTITIES:</u></p> <p>Bautzer O'Connell ✓ Maheu Edwards</p>	<p><u>DATES:</u></p> <p>/59-/65</p>	<p><u>CATEGORIES:</u></p> <p>Castro</p>
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OCCURRENCE:

O'Connell testified that Maheu helped CIA to supply women for ~~foreign leaders~~. Request came to O'Connell from Edwards. Greg Bautzer introduced ~~royal foreign leader~~ to starlet at lollywood cocktail party at Maheu's request. CIA arranged for starlet to go to N.Y.C. to be with ~~leader~~ for rest of his stay ~~in America~~. CIA monitored mail thereafter between ~~royal visitor~~ and starlet unbeknownst to either. (Tr. 144-151)

CIA, again through Maheu, ^{set} get up cocktail party for ~~2nd leader~~ in San Francisco.

SOURCE:
testimony of James O'Connell, 5/30/75

FILE:

TOP SECRET
STAFF
John Bayly

DATE: 6/30/77

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AS SANITIZED
2-2-8-94
(1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
TSD TREBICHER, Raymond EDWARDS, Sheffield O'CONNELL ✓	Late January 1961	CUBA (Syndicate/Phase I)

OCCURRENCE:

TSD prepared poison pills (of Botulin) rather than liquid poison. (24).

~~Treacher~~ remembers meeting with EDWARDS and O'CONNELL in EDWARDS' office to discuss the requirement (24) for poison pills, which had initially been the preference of GIANCANA.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 7/3/75

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CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
2022-03-10 (A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(See the 13 names listed below)

TOP SECRET

DATES:

FEB. 1961
(APPROXIMATE)

CATEGORIES: TOP SECRET

Cuba
-CUBA - PHASE I
(Card 1)

OCURRENCE:

The I.G. REPORT identified the following persons who knew, in late 1960 or early 1961, of the PHASE I plan to assassinate CASTRO:

1. ALLEN DULLES, DCI
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4. SHEFFIELD EDWARDS, D/Security
5. JAMES O'CONNELL, Office of Security, the case officer
6. J. D. ESTERLINE, Chief, WH/4
7. CORNELIUS ROOSEVELT, Chief, TSD
8. EDWARD GUNN, Chief, Operations Division, TSD
9. EDWARD GUNN, Chief, Operations Division, Medical Services (He too denies knowing of the operation at the time.)
10. WILLIAM HARVEY, Chief, FI/D
11. SIDNEY GOTTLIEB, Special Assistant to the DD/P (GOTTLIEB's name was encountered repeatedly in this inquiry, but he denies knowing of the operation in 1960-61.)
12. ROBERT BANNERMAN, DD/Security
13. J. C. KING, Chief, WH Division

SOURCE: I.G. REPORT 1967, pp. 34-35

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 28.6.75

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AS SANITIZED
22-3-74
(1)(A)

<p><u>PERSONS/ENTITIES:</u> (See list of names below.)</p>	<p><u>DATES:</u> Apr 17, '61 -</p>	<p><u>CATEGORIES:</u> TOP SECRET SECRET - CASTRO SYNDICATE/PHASE II -- KNOWLEDGE OF PHASE II</p>
<p><u>OCCURRENCE:</u> The list of persons with knowledge of PHASE II of the CASTRO ASSASSINATION OPERATION differs from those who knew of PHASE I. Those with knowledge of PHASE II are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RICHARD HELMS, DD/P 2. WILLIAM HARVEY, Chief, Task Force W 3. JAMES O'CONNELL, Office of Security (He knows that Harvey took over the operation and delivered pills, arms, and equipment in April 1962. He does not know of developments after May 1962.) 4. SHEFFIELD EDWARDS, D/Security (He knows of the fact of the turnover to HARVEY, but states he knows nothing of developments thereafter.) 5. J. C. KING, Chief, WH Division (He stated in our interview with him that he knew that HARVEY was having meetings with members of the gambling syndicate in 1962.) 6. BRUCE CHEEVER HARVEY's deputy in 1962 (CHEEVER knows that HARVEY was meeting with gangsters in Reno (sic) in the winter of 1962.) 7. TED SHACKLEY, Chief, JMWAVE (He assisted HARVEY in the delivery of arms and equipment to VARONA in April 1962, but presumably did not know the identities of the recipients nor (con't.)) 		
<p><u>SOURCE:</u> I.G. REPORT 1967-56</p>		<p><u>STAFF:</u> Baron</p>
<p><u>FILE:</u></p>		<p><u>DATE:</u> 28.6.75</p>

TOP SECRET

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AS SANITIZED 2-2-3-94 *lee*
(1) (A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(Same instruction as card 1.)

DATES:

Apr 17 '61

CATEGORIES:

CARD 2 of 3

OCCURRENCE:

- SHACKLEY, cont: the purpose for which the material was to be used.)
- 8. ~~RAY, TRELSCHER~~ TSD ~~(KRELSCHER'S~~ participation was limited to furnishing the pills to O'CONNELL on 18 April 1962.)
- 9. ANTONIO VARONA, the Cuban exile leader (He presumably was not aware of government sponsorship.)
- 10. VARONA'S SON-IN-LAW (He too was presumably not aware of government's role.)

- 11. MACEO, ROSELLI's "Man" (MACEO probably knew there was a government connection, but may not have identified CIA as the agency.)

(con't.)

TOP SECRET

SOURCE:

STAFF:

FILE:

DATE:

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 22-3-79 (A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
Edwards King Bannerman Gomez Holcomb O'Connell ✓	11/62	Castro

OCCURRENCE:

O'Connell testified that when EDWARDS was on leave, once, KING spoke to Robert BANNERMAN (who was not witting of Castro project) and O'Connell had to tell BANNERMAN that B. was not "privy" to project. O'Connell was embarrassed. (Tr. 36, 99-100). No one but KING, not Gomez or ~~Holcomb~~, knew (100).

SOURCE:

Testimony of James P. O'Connell, 5/30/75

STAFF:

John Bayly

FILE:

DATE: 6/30/75

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AS SANITIZED

22-3-94

(1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

~~Earl REED~~ (then Chief of Station
until October 1960)

1967

Trujillo

~~Robert OWEN~~
~~Charles KOOKSON~~ - ~~Isabel CINTRON~~ - ~~Ned HOLMAN~~

OCCURRENCE:

The following individuals were not contacted for interviews by the I. G. office. ~~REED~~ was said to be retired. ~~Robert OWEN~~ was said to have then been in Paris. ~~OWEN~~ was Chief of Station at the time of the assassination. ~~KOOKSON~~ was the station's operations officer and was at the time of the report in Brazil. ~~Isabel CINTRON~~ was the station's administrative assistant and was used as the communications link and for the passing of arms. She resigned in 1964 and was believed to be living in Puerto Rico. ~~HOLMAN~~ was the headquarters branch chief and was, at the time of the report, in Guatemala City.

(continued)

SOURCE:

Report of the CIA Inspector General, 1967

FILE:



Cage

STAFF:

DATE: JFD


6/28/75

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22-3-94
(1) (A)

<u>PERSONS/ENTITIES:</u>	<u>DATES:</u>	<u>CATEGORIES:</u>
 	1967	Trujillo

OCCURRENCE:

CARD #2

I. G. indicated that people were not interviewed because they could only furnish minor details and "we think it unlikely they would be able to add significantly to the quite complete record that appears in the  operations files." (4-5)

TOP SECRET

<u>SOURCE:</u>	<u>STAFF:</u>
Report of the CIA Inspector General, 1967	JFD
<u>FILE:</u>	<u>DATE:</u>
Cage	6/28/75

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22-3-9Y
(1)(A)

<u>PERSONS/ENTITIES:</u>	<u>DATES:</u>	<u>CATEGORIES:</u>
Sam Gold Juan Orta ✓ Dr. Raymond Freichler Cornelius Roosevelt	September 25, 1961	Castro

OCCURRENCE: In discussing the possible methods of accomplishing the mission, Sam Gold suggested that they not resort to firearms, but that if he could be furnished with some type of potent pill that could be placed in Castro's food or drink. Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official, who had been receiving back payments from the gambling interests who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind. Cornelius Roosevelt, Chief, TSD was consulted and assigned Dr. Raymond Freichler to develop a pill that had the elements of rapid solubility, high lethal content, and little or no traceability. Six of these items were produced and after being checked out for their effectiveness by Dr. Edward M. Gunn, three pills were ultimately turned over to Sam for the mission. Neither TSD nor Dr. Gunn was briefed on the ultimate use of the pills.

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