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X ALSOP STEWART

Chronological Actions Regarding Bartlett-Alsop Story on Cuba

For The SATURDAY EVENING POST

By The Assistant to the Director

Col. Stanley J. Grogan

2 November 1962

Charles Bartlett requested an appointment with the DCI and with anyone else in the Agency the DCI may wish regarding an article Bartlett and Stewart Alsop will do for the SATURDAY EVENING POST on the Cuban Affair. Bartlett said the White House had approved the project.

I telephoned Mr. McCone who said, "check with Salinger." I telephoned Pierre Salinger; he said to hold up on the interview until he could check, after which he would call me back.

6 November 1962

Charles Bartlett telephoned to ask if I had heard anything from the DCI as to when Mr. McCone would see Bartlett and Alsop. I told him we were working on it, but had no word yet.

7 November 1962

Charles Bartlett telephoned to me during the forenoon. He asked if I had heard from the DCI as to when he might see Bartlett and Alsop in connection with the article they are writing on Cuba. I told him I still didn't have word, but would let him know as soon as I learned something definite.

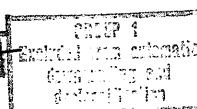
The DCI telephoned and asked what about the meeting with Bartlett and Alsop. I told the DCI the White House still hadn't given an answer to our inquiry. The Director said to hold them off until we get a go ahead on this.

In the later afternoon SJJ called Salinger to follow up his inquiry about the Bartlett-Alsop appointment. Salinger said he didn't have a clearance yet, but he would call back after he again checked.

Pierre Salinger called me at home later in the evening and said the White House did not want the DCI or other CIA people to grant an interview to Bartlett and Alsop on the Cuban affair.

8 November 1962

Charles Bartlett telephoned. He said Salinger had called him and said that the DCI would not be available for an interview, neither would anyone else

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in CIA. I told Bartlett I had received the same from Salinger. Bartlett said he didn't want to do anything contrary to the wishes of the White House, and he withdrew his request for an interview at this time for himself and Alsop with the DCI.

9 November 1962

Ray Cline, DDI, telephoned me at home and said he had made an appointment to see Bartlett and Alsop at 10 a.m., 12 November 1962, regarding the Cuban situation, only to have been told later by Walter Elder that permission to see them had been held up by the White House. Cline correctly stated that I had not informed him of this holdup. He said he understood from Alsop that there had been a change of signals, and that CIA could see them. I said I would check with Salinger.

I phoned Alsop at his home that night. He said he felt sure he and Bartlett had been cleared by the White House for the Defense Department and he believed that they had been cleared for the CIA.

I was unable to reach Salinger to check this.

10 November 1962

I phoned Salinger regarding the Alsop-Bartlett clearance and Alsop's belief that the signals had been changed, but Salinger was just taking off with the President for Mrs. Roosevelt's funeral, so he did not give me a response.

11 November 1962

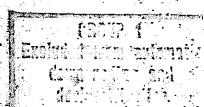
I talked with Salinger at his home and he said clearance had been given for the CIA to grant an interview to Bartlett and Stewart Alsop. I so informed the DCI and Ray Cline. I telephoned Stewart Alsop and Charles Bartlett and confirmed their appointment to meet in the CIA Headquarters with Ray Cline at 10 a.m., Monday, 12 November 1962.

I also notified Helms and I notified Mr. Knoche; I asked Mr. Knoche to find out if the DCI approved of these arrangements. Mr. Knoche said he informed the DCI and received no objection, so he assumed it was OK. I phoned the Director and he said I should bring them to lunch at his home on Monday, 12 November 1962.

Then he changed this to say he would not be able to see them until sometime Tuesday, 13 November 1962.

12 November 1962

I came to the office and met Bartlett and Alsop upon their arrival and took them to Ray Cline's office where Cline gave them an interview. I had notified DDP George McManus sat in on the interview; Dick Helms came in toward the end.

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~~SECRET~~13 November 1962

June Irish telephoned that the DCI wished to have lunch at CIA Headquarters with Bartlett and Alsop around 1:00 today. I phoned Bartlett. He said Stewart Alsop was having lunch with Dean Acheson today, but he would ask Stew to cancel so as to meet the DCI at lunch. Bartlett called back to say that Alsop felt that he could not cancel the luncheon with Acheson. [redacted] was informed and suggested the time of 2:30 p.m. today which was agreeable to Alsop and Bartlett. The DCI was interviewed in his office by Alsop and Bartlett at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, 13 November 1962. I was present. Among other things the Director said at this interview was that it was wrong to give publicity to what goes on in the meetings of the Executive Committee and particularly when it states what specific actions were recommended by specified individuals.

I asked Alsop and Bartlett if they would let us have a copy of their manuscript when they submitted it to the POST. They said it had to be submitted by Thursday, 15 November 1962, and it would not be possible to furnish a copy of the manuscript because it would be checked at the White House, by the President, but this check must not be made known to anyone. They said that they would try to get me an advance copy of the publication that contained the story. Bartlett and Alsop said that they had talked to Secretary McNamara, Ambassador Thompson, McGeorge Bundy, Dean Acheson, and others. I informed General Carter re the manuscript.

Mr. McCone telephoned me at home and asked my opinion as to how the briefing on the Cuban situation came out with Charles Bartlett and Stewart Alsop. I told him I thought he did all right. I told him that they had said they would show their copy only to the President and to no one else. McCone said he hoped we would be able to get an advance copy and when we did to get it to him as quickly as possible.

20 November 1962

General Carter, Mr. Kirkpatrick, and I met for a moment or so following a Senior Staff meeting. General Carter asked if we had received a copy of the Alsop-Bartlett article. He asked Kirk how well he knew Ted Clifton. Kirk said he didn't know General Clifton too well. Carter said he knew him very well and he would ask Clifton to furnish a copy of the manuscript to us when they got it at the White House.

I again phoned Bartlett and asked if we could have a copy after the White House gets their copy. Bartlett said the White House already returned their copy. He said the President didn't want anyone to know he had seen it because it contained some pretty stiff stuff regarding Adlai Stevenson. He said his statement to me on this was confidential, of course.

I asked what they were saying about CIA. He said they referred to cables sent by Mr. McCone while on his honeymoon which proved that McCone was right about the Soviet missiles. He also said that they felt there had to be mention of

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the difference between SAC and CIA as to who would fly the U-2. I told him I knew nothing about that situation. Bartlett said he thought the intelligence had been good, and had asked Stewart Alsop for a release from his agreement so that he could write a separate article on what a good job the intelligence did.

I telephoned General Carter and told him I would not be getting the manuscript, from the White House, because their copy had already been returned to Bartlett and Alsop and the White House didn't want anyone to know that they had seen the article. General Carter said this was OK; he would read about it in the newspapers.

27 November 1962

Walter Elder telephoned and said the Director wondered if we got a copy of the SATURDAY EVENING POST story by Alsop and Bartlett. I told him no, I had already informed the Director about this. The manuscript, I told him, had been sent to the White House, and they said the President was the only one who would see the article, because there were parts of the article critical of Adlai Stevenson; the White House did not want anyone to know that the President had seen it. Elder said he would relay this message to Mr. McCone.

28 November 1962

Mr. Knoche telephoned and asked, for the Director, why the Agency didn't receive a copy of the manuscript by Alsop and Bartlett for the SATURDAY EVENING POST. I told him that Alsop had promised me an advance copy of the story by Monday, 3 December 1962. I told him the reason the Agency didn't see the manuscript was the writers said the President didn't want anyone to know that he saw it because it contained criticism of Adlai Stevenson. I also told him I had given this information yesterday to Mr. Elder.

3 December 1962

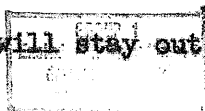
I telephoned Stewart Alsop's secretary saying I had not yet received the promised advance copy of the POST, and I knew Stewart was in Latin America. She said that they didn't have it yet, but as soon as it arrived, and it would arrive on 3 December, she would get it to me.

The WASHINGTON POST story of today, 3 December 1962, by Chalmers Roberts, was incorrect in saying that the POST was on the stands today. It will be on the stands 4 December 1962. Roberts broke a press release date.

I received the advance copy of the POST and made distribution to the DCI and others in the Agency who had an interest in the article.

4 December 1962

Mr. McCone telephoned to say that CIA will stay out of any controversy on the

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Alsop-Bartlett story in the POST. He said he had checked his notes and he finds the authors state information diametrically opposed to what he told them. He thought it very unfortunate to have that kind of thing appear.

10 December 1962

Pierre Salinger telephoned to say how bad was the LIFE story reported in today's WASHINGTON POST. He said the White House has not seen a copy. I told him we do not have a copy. He asked if anyone in CIA had talked to John Steele regarding this. I told him I hadn't talked to Steele in some weeks, and insofar as I knew, Steele has not talked to anyone in CIA. During our conversation, I said I knew of no action by the President to have anyone see Mr. McCone. Salinger said he thought that is the statement we should stand by if we have any calls regarding the LIFE story.

I phoned General Carter and told him this and he reminded me that the article states "White House orders." I phoned Salinger and told him that if asked I would say there were no White House orders for CIA to see anyone. If asked, whether the DCI or anyone in CIA had seen Bartlett and Alsop, I would state that, as a matter of policy, we don't make public identities of people who come to CIA, and I would neither confirm nor deny that Bartlett and Alsop had seen the Director or anyone else in the Agency.

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