

EYES ONLY

8 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH-4

SUBJECT: Project JMATE

As a result of discussions with Bissell, the following subjects were felt to require attention:

1. The [] episode. According to Mac Bundy, it is felt (b)(3)

that it would be a good idea to put this whole matter to rest and the best way to do it would be a memorandum spelling out the facts, a brief statement of negotiations [] and what has been done. [] (b)(3)

[] has further details on this which he can explain. (b)(3)

2. A careful study of hard evidence bearing on "the state of mind" internally in Cuba. We have been told that this is a point which surely will have to be met at the Summit meeting and it may well have to be answered in the State Department. One bit of evidence that I think would be very useful would be a specific rundown of [] (b)(3)

point about members of his outfit who recently were militiamen. If it could be shown how recently and specifically what their views are, this could be very persuasive. Furthermore, hard evidence indicating that Castro and his Government might be "running scared". Bearing on this, of course, are his 22 page letter to other Latin American countries, his speech offering to repay owners of intervened and condemned property in return for better relations and trade, ^{avi} his statement that he did not intend to export the revolution even though a few days before he had said he would.

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~~Other~~ Specific evidence bearing on the inadequacy of the militia; are many of them deserting either to go home or, more significantly, to join the opposition? Aren't the enormous numbers being used against relatively small pockets of resistance indications of inefficiency? Is there any other evidence? On this whole point, a paper ultimately might be useful but initially a short outline with references to specific bits of evidence would be enough.

3. A careful analysis of the diversion alternative. I think that your best thing^{ing} should be devoted to where the best geography for it is, i.e. on the main island or elsewhere. Would it be possible to take the thirty-odd trainees now at Belle Chase, add a few more trained individuals to raise the number to, say, 45 or 50, and then fill out with 150 less trained individuals. Could this group then be given unusually heavy fire power in the form of mortars, recoilless weapons, MG's etc. My thought is that, if as we all suspect, the militia will not stand up against heavy firepower, even a small group, if well equipped, might be able to achieve a success well beyond the potential assumed from their numbers. In connection with this point, I think that it would be very helpful if you could go over your conclusions as soon as possible orally with Bissell in order that he can be well up-to-date on your latest thinking.

EYES ONLY

CJB

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
EYES ONLY		
Mr. Esterline		
A quick, rough memo from		
CTB.		
EYES ONLY		
<i>JC I have my copy</i>		
FROM: <i>Jake</i>		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-B
WHICH MAY BE USED.

GPO: 1957-O-439445

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