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OPERATION MONGOOSE

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

7 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Report of Progress to Higher Authority

I reported to higher authority the substance of Mr. Harvey's briefing of the Special Group (Augmented) on 3 May 1962, pointing out the very limited progress which has been made and the uncertainty of the ultimate effectiveness of our program. I mentioned the Duque incident as indicative of the morale problem. It was agreed that we would continue along the present lines until the terminal date of the present phase in August.

  
Maxwell Taylor

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[This document was previously released in part. The red highlighted portions were deleted.]

3 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of Special Group (Augmented) on Project Mongoose, 3 May 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor; Mr. Kennedy; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Gilpatric, General Decker, General Lansdale and General Craig; Mr. McCone, and Mr. Harvey

1. General Lansdale gave an interim report on the progress of stepping up recruitment of Cubans into the U. S. Army. He said the consensus is that there are not more than a thousand suitable individuals from whom additional recruits could be selected. The Attorney General commented that the President wishes to have a large number. General Lansdale said that various alternatives for training of such Cubans are being looked into.

It was agreed that such a cadre of Cubans would be an asset to the U.S., which might be used in a number of ways. General Lansdale, supported by General Taylor, pointed out that in this connection the matter of holding the individuals and giving them useful employment after they are trained is an important and a difficult one.

2. Mr. Harvey gave a rundown on progress to date with agent teams and in the general field of intelligence, including the Opa-locka interrogation center and the Madrid clandestine interrogation center. He outlined various difficulties encountered, and said that three agent teams have been infiltrated and that five W/T sets are in place. Approximately 72 actual or potential reporting sources are also in place. A significant development is that Major Duque has refused to allow agents responsive to him to be dispatched on purely intelligence-gathering missions. (This sort of attitude had been forecast earlier as a possibility, but it now assumes particular importance in view of Duque's stature.)

✓ exercise "Madrid" only (1)(c)

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3. Mr. Harvey also commented on the two attempts made to intrude into Havana TV programs. The Group asked that a check be made, as soon as possible, on how effective these operations were. They also asked that a copy of the scripts used be made available. The Group felt that it is worthwhile to check this capability out, as is now being done, but questioned whether once proved effective it should not perhaps be kept in reserve for a more meaningful time.

Thomas A. Parrott

cc: General Lansdale  
destroyed 4/9/63 mn

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