

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN *P.W.B.*
SUBJECT: U. S. Government involvement in
plots to assassinate foreign leaders

You have the summary report prepared by David Belin of the results of the Rockefeller Commission's investigation into allegations of CIA involvement in plans to assassinate certain foreign leaders. The Commission's investigation pertained primarily to Castro and Trujillo. Mr. Belin's report is similar in scope to internal reviews of the same matters conducted by the CIA's Inspector General in 1967. The Senate Select (Church) Committee has sanitized versions of these 1967 reviews.

Mr. Belin's report also includes interviews of Robert McNamara, Maxwell Taylor, McGeorge Bundy, John McCone, General Edward Lansdale and others with respect to a meeting of the "Special Group Augmented" -- a 40 Committee-like group that existed between November 1961 and October 1962 and administered a wide-ranging covert action program against Cuba known as "Operation MONGOOSE." However, the Commission did not have access to all of the underlying documents -- including NSC and Defense records -- concerning MONGOOSE. Consequently, the materials compiled by the Commission provide only a partial history. They focus on the CIA's involvement in the assassination plots, but contain very little with respect to involvement of others in the Executive Branch. They create the impression that the CIA was largely acting alone in these matters -- particularly in the case of Castro, less so in the case of Trujillo.

Attached at Tab A is a summary memorandum of MONGOOSE and related records from the NSC's files (and additional materials provided by the Defense Department) concerning the Castro matter and covering the period from the Bay of Pigs in April 1961 to the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

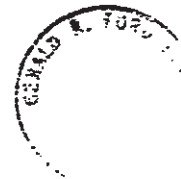
Declassified



Attached at Tab B is a similar memorandum concerning Executive Branch involvement in the Trujillo matter, based on NSC and State Department records.

As a practical matter, I believe that the information set forth in the Belin paper and these two tabs is about as much as we will ever know from documents readily available to us about the Federal Government's role in plots to assassinate Castro and Trujillo. A reason is that much of the planning was probably never recorded in the usual fashion, but there may be many former participants in various aspects of these matters from whom information can be obtained by thorough interrogation.

Attachments



WH: Office of Counsel to the Prez (Buchanan)

Memo, Philip Buchanan - Prez Ford

June 7, 1975

Analyzing Rockefeller Commission's draft assassination
report

GRFL: GRFP: Philip Buchanan files, Natl Security Encls, b. 26, f: "Cuban files (1)." "