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Washington, D.C. 20505

4 October 2016

Mr. John Greenewald  
[REDACTED]

Reference: F-2016-00780 / NSA 79380-R1

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

In the course of processing your 8 October 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the National Security Agency (NSA) for records pertaining to **Operation Mongoose from Intellipedia**, NSA located one document and forwarded it to us on 30 December 2015 for review and direct response to you.

We determined that the document can be released in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemption (b)(3). A copy of the document and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at: 703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lavergne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Lavergne  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

## Explanation of Exemptions

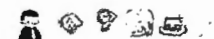
### Freedom of Information Act:

- (b)(1) exempts from disclosure information currently and properly classified, pursuant to an Executive Order;
- (b)(2) exempts from disclosure information, which pertains solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Agency;
- (b)(3) exempts from disclosure information that another federal statute protects, provided that the other federal statute either requires that the matters be withheld, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The (b)(3) statutes upon which the CIA relies include, but are not limited to, the CIA Act of 1949;
- (b)(4) exempts from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person and that is privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) exempts from disclosure inter-and intra-agency memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) exempts from disclosure information from personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- (b)(7) exempts from disclosure information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that the production of the information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source or, in the case of information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger any individual's life or physical safety;
- (b)(8) exempts from disclosure information contained in reports or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use of an agency responsible for regulating or supervising financial institutions; and
- (b)(9) exempts from disclosure geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

April 2012

(b)(3)

# (U) Cuban Project




UNCLASSIFIED

From Intellipedia

You have new messages (last change).

The **Cuban Project** (also known as **Operation Mongoose** or the **Special Group** or the **Special Group Augmented**) was a program of CIA covert operations developed during the early years of US President John F. Kennedy. On 30 November 1961 aggressive covert operations against the communist government of Fidel Castro in Cuba was authorized by President Kennedy. The operation was led by Air Force General Edward Lansdale and went into effect after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.

 See the Wikipedia article  
**Cuban Project**

(b)(3)

(b)(3)



## (U) Role of U.S. Covert Operations in Cuba, 1961-62

(U) Documents declassified since 1997 have shed considerable light on the role of US covert operations in Cuba from April 1961 to October 1962. Revelations from these materials can help resolve the debate over whether the Kennedy administration had planned a second invasion of Cuba after the landing at the Bay of Pigs. An examination of the administration's covert actions in Cuba, both prior to and during the Cuban Missile Crisis, reveal clear bounds within which President Kennedy sought to circumscribe those actions. And the policy he adopted, a preponderant body of evidence shows, stopped well short of overt military intervention. There was an intensification of Operation Mongoose activities on Cuba in August, and an abrupt end of the program after the missile crisis.

See: "Covert Action and US Cold War Strategy in Cuba, 1961-62", history article by Aiyaz Husain, published in *Journal of Cold War Studies*, (February) Winter 2005 (Vol. 5, issue 1; pp. 23-53); accessed 26 OCT 2012, using JWICS Discovery Tool.

## (U) References

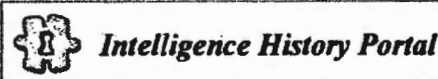
 *This Central Intelligence Agency-related article is a stub. You can help Intellipedia by expanding it*

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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