

## ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

BRIGADE 2506/MANUEL ARTIME/MRR

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### SUMMARY

The HSCA felt it necessary only to give a concise history in its report. It is mentioned that the ceremony in the Orange Bowl in Miami on December 29, 1962, celebrating the return of the survivors of the invasion, was for the most part for show. Kennedy praised the bravery of the Bay of Pigs invasion force, and upon receiving the flag of Brigade 2506 from its military commander, responded "...I can assure you that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana." It was later acknowledged that the bitterness toward Kennedy was so great that the ceremony and presentation almost did not take place.

### BACKGROUND

Brigade 2506 was the invasion force of CIA-trained Cuban exiles that landed on the beach at the Bay of Pigs. Their training was organized by Manuel Artime, who undertook this responsibility in addition to his role in the CRC and its predecessor, the FRD. Artime was the main recruiter for the brigade. He also founded the Movimiento de Recuperation Revolutionaria (MRR). The MRR was part of the FRD/CRC apparatus. Most of its members were involved in some way in either the preparation or the carrying out of the invasion. Its

members, routed by Castro on the beach and left stagnating in Cuban prisons for over a year and a half, were said to hold deep bitterness and hatred for John Kennedy. After the Missile Crisis, Artime managed to establish four clandestine bases, two each in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, from which he carried out sporadic raids on Cuba. After having been sentenced to prison by Castro, the members of Brigade 2506 were returned to the United States in December 1962 in exchange for \$53 million in medical supplies. By the end of 1964, the Costa Rican government had shut down the camps in its jurisdiction and the Brigade and the MRR had disbanded. Artime believed that with Kennedy's death, the resolve of the United States government to free Cuba from Castro also ended. Artime died of cancer in 1977 shortly before an HSCA interview could be scheduled.

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