

Memorandum

TO: Jeremy Gunn
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf
RE: Church Committee testimony from General Lansdale - Box 24 Folder 2
DATE: May 5, 1995
FILE NO.: 4.0.1.4 Church Committee Report

Both Manuel and myself looked at Box 24, Folder 2 which contained testimony from General Lansdale. While the list obtained from NARA says this file is in Folder 1, the file at NARA was labeled Folder 2. You already have some exhibits from the Lansdale testimony.

General Lansdale discussed the setting up of the SG(A) and pointed out to the President that he needed someone whom he trusted completely. The President suggested that the Attorney General be that person. Lansdale said that while he did not believe the Attorney General was the formal Chairman, he did chair a number of meetings (pages 6-8). At about the second meeting, Lansdale believes General Maxwell Taylor was the formal Chairman. While Lansdale said he had responsibility for tasking elements of the CIA, DoD, State and USIA he did not have control over them. Lansdale said he had the position of coordinator and reported and received policy approval and guidance from the Committee that was made up of the chiefs or the heads of these agencies and departments. On page 24, Lansdale acknowledges that Harvey's actions were to be reported to him and to the SG.

General Lansdale replied yes when asked if he did have the authority to ask the various working groups to come up with proposals without asking permission but that he did not have the authority to direct the working groups to take action without being before the SG. He does not recall taking orders from the Attorney General but to work with him noting that it might have been phrased as guidance. He saw RFK at least once a week. Lansdale did not recall ever having discussed with the Attorney General a plan or a proposal to assassinate Castro.

Throughout Lansdale's testimony, there were attempts by Senators to establish a command structure for Cuba projects. There were examples in the testimony of ideas for missions into Cuba, the purpose of which was to undermine Castro. In addition, there were a large number of documents relating to "possible courses of action" and none identify any direct line of responsibility.

There are very few redactions in the Lansdale testimony. As you can see from the attached testimony, on page 32A there appears to be, from the reading of the transcript, a document concerning Operation bounty. Most of that page is blank so I assume there was a redaction. On page 110 there is also a small redaction concerning the Opa-locka interrogation center. (FILE NAME lansdale.wpd)