

Memorandum

TO: Jeremy Gunn  
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf  
RE: Testimony of Thomas Parrott before the Church Committee-Box 27, Folder 2  
FILE NO. 4.0.2 (Parrott)

The Parrott testimony, like that of many witnesses, dealt with the plans to attempt to assassinate Fidel Castro. However, the Parrott testimony does provide some interesting items for background.

I believe Mr. Parrott is an important person to watch for in documents to be analyzed because he was the Secretary for the SG (A) and also for a time the Secretary of the Counterinsurgency Group which he did not continue doing because he said the SG and Mongoose took up a lot of his time.

One of the interesting identifications gleaned from the testimony was the way Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy were referred to in memoranda. President Eisenhower was known as "Mr. Gray's associate" and President Kennedy was "higher authority."

With regard to the person in charge of Mongoose, Parrott believes that Harvey did not misunderstand that it was Maxwell Taylor who was in charge. On page 66 of Parrott's testimony, there is an exchange between him and committee counsel on procedural policy for Mongoose. Schwarz asked if it was Parrott's understanding that "all matters of significance" relating to action on Cuba in the Mongoose period were to be brought up, discussed and decided upon by the SG(A). Parrot agreed but said this was "short of final Presidential approval."

FILE NAME (parrott.wpd)