
DRAFT
Final Report, Chapter 6
Section II (B)
Military Records on Cuba
July 14, 1998

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The Review Board staff located military records on Cuba in four different collections of records.

First, personnel of the Information Management Division of the Joint Staff Secretariat spent approximately 210 man-hours searching for records related to both Cuba and Vietnam policy in Record Group 218 at the National Archives. Among forty different FRC boxes and 8 Hollinger boxes of RG 218 materials, staff members of the Information Management Division flagged selected records from the time period 1961-1964 from the files of Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairmen Lemnitzer, Taylor and Wheeler, and selected records from 1961-1964 from the Central Files of the Joint Staff, for examination and consideration by the Review Board Staff. Of the records reviewed, 146 of the 147 records flagged were considered by the staff to meet the requirements for either assassination records, or "EHUs," records that enhance the historical understanding of the assassination. Approximately 2 out of every 3 records from RG 218 were related to Cuba policy; approximately 1 out of every 3 was related to Vietnam policy. About half of these Cuba records date from 1962, and half from 1963; very few records on Cuba from RG 218 originated in 1961 or 1964. All JCS records in the JFK Collection are part of the "202" number series.

Second, JFK Liaison officer at the National Archives, Mr. Steve Tilley, identified 6 FRC boxes (Accession Number 69A6412) containing the Cuba policy papers of Mr. Joseph Califano from 1963. During this period of time Mr. Califano was both General Counsel to Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance, and also Special Assistant to the Army Secretary. Mr. Tilley, and Military Records Team Leader Mr. Tim Wray, jointly decided (and the Review Board agreed) to simply consider the 6 boxes of "Califano Papers,"

in their entirety, as either assassination records, or “EHUs.” During 1963, Secretary of the Army Vance was designated as “DOD Executive Agent” for all meetings of the government task force titled the “Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on Cuban Affairs,” or ICCCA. As his special assistant, Mr. Califano often represented him at meetings of the ICCCA, and was completely “in the loop” on all ICCCA policy deliberations; thus, this collection is a unique find, and complements much of the contingency planning activities of the JCS during 1963. All Califano Papers in the JFK Collection are part of the “198” number series.

Third, a small number of records (approximately 40) from the personal papers of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara at the National Archives contain some records on Cuba policy, and have had JFK Collection RIFs created for them by the Review Board staff under the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) “195” number series. Although from a Deed of Gift collection, this collection is different from that of the autopsy materials in that the Deed of Gift does not restrict access of the pertinent materials to the government.

Fourth, selected chapters in two separate volumes of *The History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*, written by Walter S. Poole (namely, Volume VIII: 1961-1964, Part II--The Succession of Crises; and Volume VIII: 1961-1964, Part III--The Global Challenge) were identified by the Review Board staff as “EHUs,” and photocopied for subsequent declassification review.¹

The first three categories of Cuba records mentioned above were processed for declassification in accordance with JFK Act standards via the vehicle of the ARRB-Sponsored Joint Declassification Sessions, from the summer of 1997 through the summer of 1998. The selected chapters on Cuba and Latin American affairs from the JCS histories authored by Walter S. Poole were reviewed first by the Joint Staff, and subsequently by NSC and State.

¹In *The Succession of Crises*, chapters copied were Chapter VIII, “The Cuban Debacle,” Chapter XI, “The Cuban Missile Crisis,” and the Appendix, titled “Principal Military and Civilian Officers.” In *The Global Challenge*, the one chapter copied was Chapter XV, “Countering Communism in Latin America.”
