



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

17 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL W. H. CRAIG, USA,  
CHIEF, SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES DIVISION, J-5

SUBJECT: Special Project

Confirming your appointment as Defense representative of the Caribbean Survey Group and in furtherance of my memorandum for Deputy Secretary Gilpatric, dated 26 December 1961, and my undated departmental tasking memorandum (both of which were shown to you), following is a clarification of the role of the Department of Defense with respect to the Caribbean Survey Group.

a. The first task of the Defense Representative will be to construct a firm Defense position with respect to the Defense Department's stake and role in the removal of the Communist regime in Cuba. In this connection, it is necessary that the Defense role be precisely defined with respect to what actions would be undertaken by the Department of Defense or any of its agencies if a popular movement inside Cuba made headway in overthrowing the Communist regime and requested U.S. assistance. The Defense position and policy on this subject needs to be definitive at the earliest possible stage as a matter of its political and psychological impact to a greater degree than as a possible future military action.

4 b. Department of Defense must be prepared to assist fully CIA and Department of State in Cuban operations as Defense commitments of men, money and materiel are required.

c. Department of Defense must prepare for the sound and rapid implementation of plans for accomplishing those tasks accepted as a Defense responsibility.

For your information, the overall plan envisages essentially indigenous initiation of activities on the ground in Cuba and elsewhere to be developed and accomplished by CIA and the Department of State. At such time as CIA and the Department of State present their detailed plans, or any requests for Defense support, these will be provided to you as the Department of Defense Representative. As the Defense Representative,

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... formal recommendations and personal suggestions concerning  
... Defense role and contributions are invited.



31 *E G Lansdale*  
EDWARD G. LANSDALE  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Assistant to the  
Secretary of Defense  
(Special Operations)

cc: Sec/Def  
Dep/Sec/Def

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