Revolutionary Cuba

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Castro in Power

I. Early Years

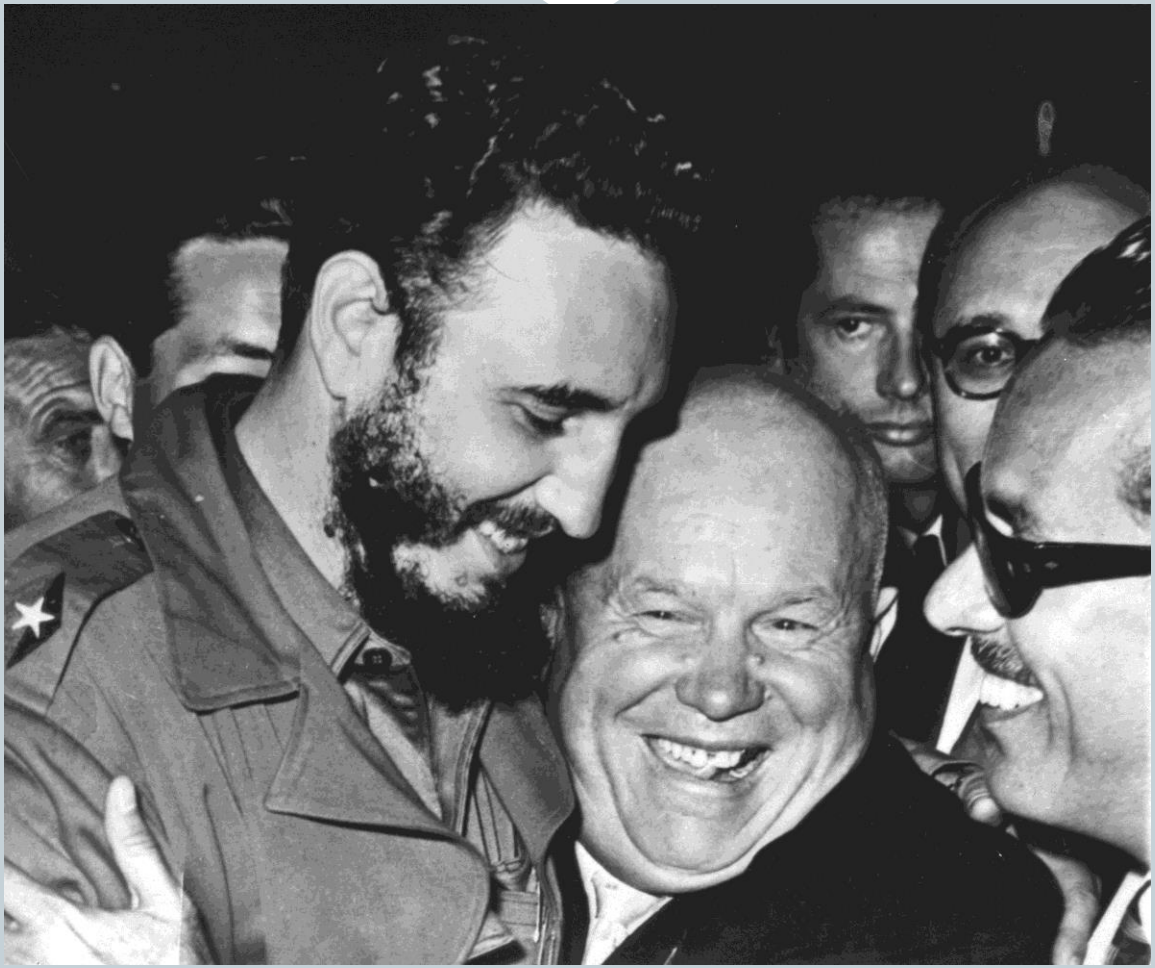
1. political independence and resource redistribution
2. shuffling of cabinet ministers
3. Castro's visit to U.S. and meeting with VP Nixon
4. concern that Cuba was moving into Soviet orbit
5. Eisenhower directed CIA to train Cuban exiles
6. wrangling over sugar quota
7. Soviet oil for Cuban sugar – takeover of U.S. refineries
8. embargo and break in relations

Assumption of Power 1959

Proclamation of Victory

Castro–Nixon Meeting of April 19, 1959

Castro and Khrushchev at UN in September 1960



Relations Severed on January 3, 1961

The Weather

Today—Partly cloudy, rather cold, high 36. Tonight—Fair, low 26. Thursday—Fair and a bit warmer. Tuesday's temperatures: high 41 at 3:25 p. m.; low 33 at 8:25 a. m. Complete weather details on Page 24.

The Washington Post

Times Herald

TV Channels

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34th Year ··· No. 30 Phone RE. 7-1234 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1961 WTOP Radio (1500) TV (Ch. 9) TEN CENTS

U.S. Breaks Relations With Cuba

Senators Clash Over Plan to Revise Rules

Party Role Of Johnson Widened

Democrats Ask Texan to Preside Over Caucuses

By Robert C. Albright
Staff Reporter

A long-heralded fight to liberalize the Senate's anti-filibuster rules broke in a welter of parliamentary confusion yesterday as the Senate reconvened under new leaders—but with a surprising link with its old "boss."

In a companion development, as newsworthy as the biennial rules fracas, Vice President-elect Johnson, who ran the Senate with a firm hand for eight years, was invited to continue participation in the leadership by presiding at Party caucuses.

The latter proposal, put forward by Johnson's successor as Majority Leader, Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) touched off a lively debate and some protests of Executive Branch [illegible] in legislative [illegible]

[illegible] Caucus Vote

[illegible] Caucus voted for [illegible] 77, after rejecting 45 to 12, a motion to delay action a week.

As Johnson stepped down as leader, and later out of the Senate entirely until Jan. 22, when

By Tom Keller, Staff Photographer

Sam Rayburn, just named Speaker for a 10th term, is shown swearing in House members as the 87th Congress convened yesterday.

Ike Calls Castro Slash In Embassy at Havana 'Limit' of Endurance

Associated Press

The United States last night broke off diplomatic relations with the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro.

President Eisenhower at 8:30 p. m. issued a statement saying: "There is a limit to what the United States in self respect can endure. That limit has now been reached."

The United States has asked Switzerland to handle all its diplomatic and consular duties in Cuba.

Mr. Eisenhower gave as his reason the ultimatum delivered by Cuba yesterday morning which demanded that the United States limit the personnel in its embassy and consulate in Havana to 11 persons.

[In Havana, police just night arrested U. S. Embassy treasurer Stewart H. Adams on the eve of his departure for the United States, United Press International reported. He was seized in his home while packing. There was no immediate indication of what the charge against him was.

[The arrest came before the news reached Havana that the United States had broken diplomatic relations.

[U. S. charge d'affaires Richard A. Bradduck immediately contacted the Cuban Government to seek Adams' release.]

Castro, who he learned of the break, said "Cuba is alert" and then called his Cabinet into urgent session, presumably to draft a reply.

Base in Cuba

James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary declined to answer any questions about what the United States intends to do with its naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

He was asked whether the United States still intends to defend the base by force if necessary against any attack by Castro.

He also was asked whether the United States intended to [illegible]

U. S. Relaxes Stand on Laos Policy

Pressure by Allies Prompts Restudy of Peace Trustees Board

By Warren Unna
Staff Reporter

The United States, under sharp criticism and pressure from its allies and friends, yesterday decided to reconsider [illegible]

Air of Calm in House Hides War of Nerves

By Richard L. Lyons

Congressional Stories Inside

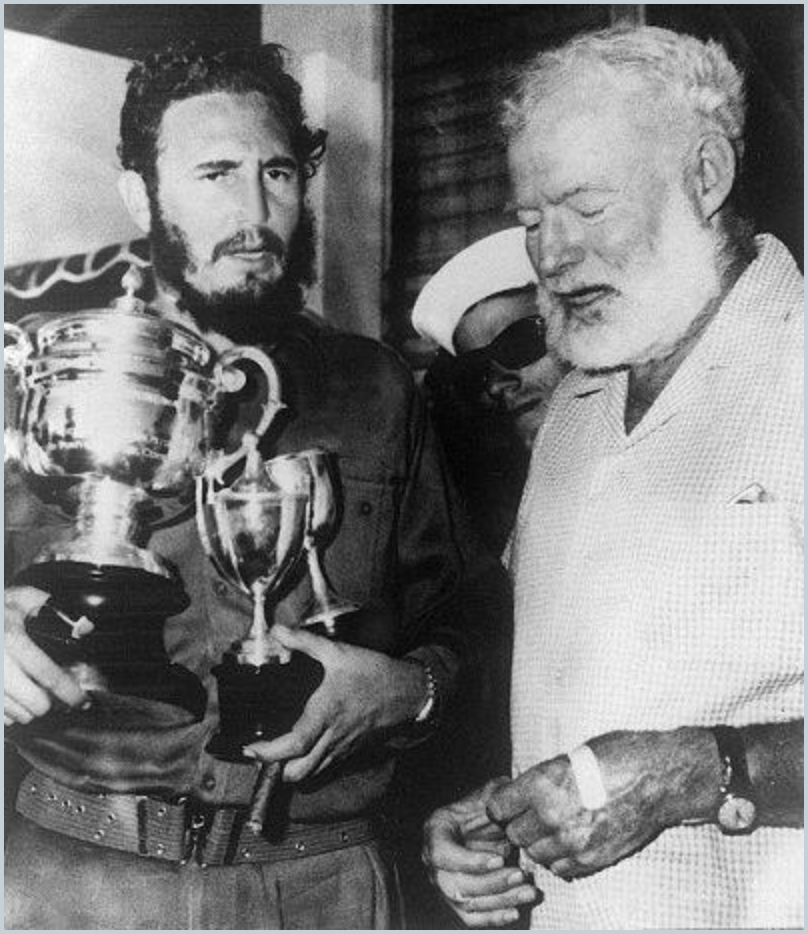
Power shifted to United States Senate, but Johnson leads senators. Page A2.

Kennedy Appoints Hitch Pentagon Budget Chief

By Edward T. Folliard

Embargo: February, 1962

Fidel Plays to Win 1960



Bay of Pigs

I. Overview

1. election of John F. Kennedy in November 1960
2. “How could I have been so stupid to let them go ahead?”
    a. campaign rhetoric and stopping communism
    b. success of Guatemalan coup = illusion of success
    c. Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell
    d. flow of information to president from CIA
    e. misgivings of Joint Chiefs and State Department

Bay of Pigs

I. Operation

1. effort to conceal U.S. involvement
2. security breaches among Cuban exiles
3. Castro eliminated threat of major uprising
4. problems with landing zone
5. Kennedy's cancellation of air strikes
6. spectacular failure
7. sabotage and assassination attempts

II. Costly Error

1. Cuban military alliance with Soviet Union
2. Castro's commitment to communism

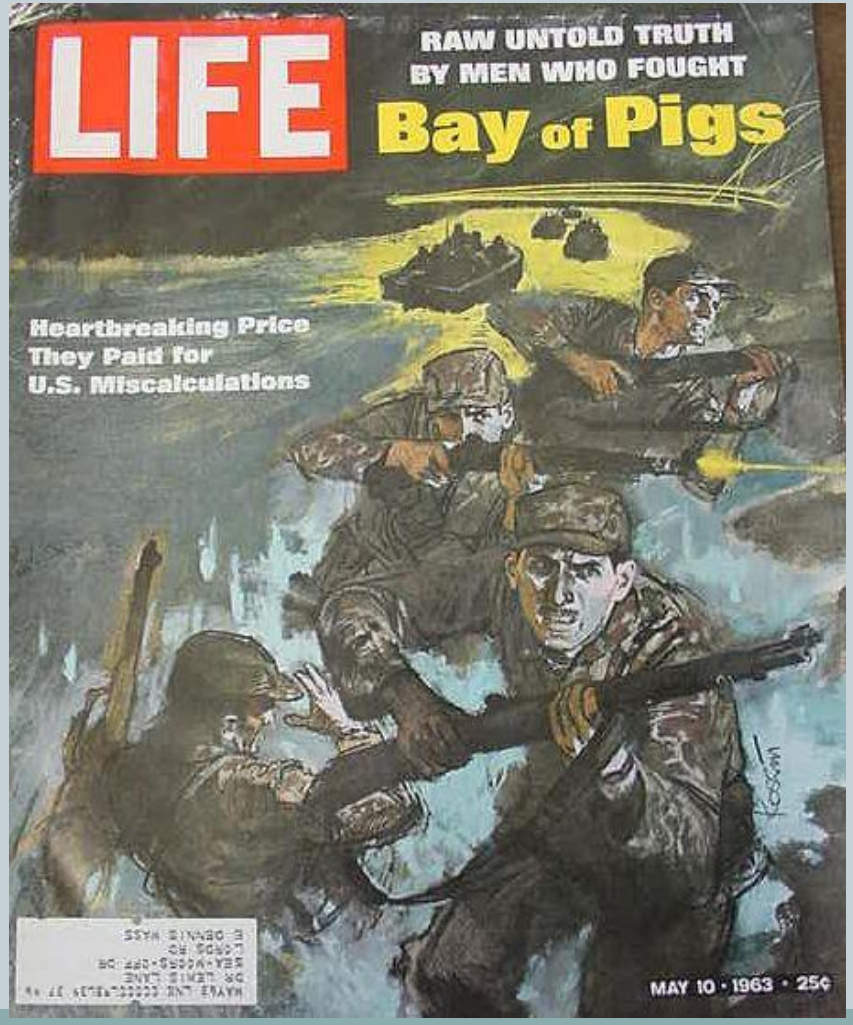
Castro in Control

Captured Members of Assault Brigade 2506

Aftermath

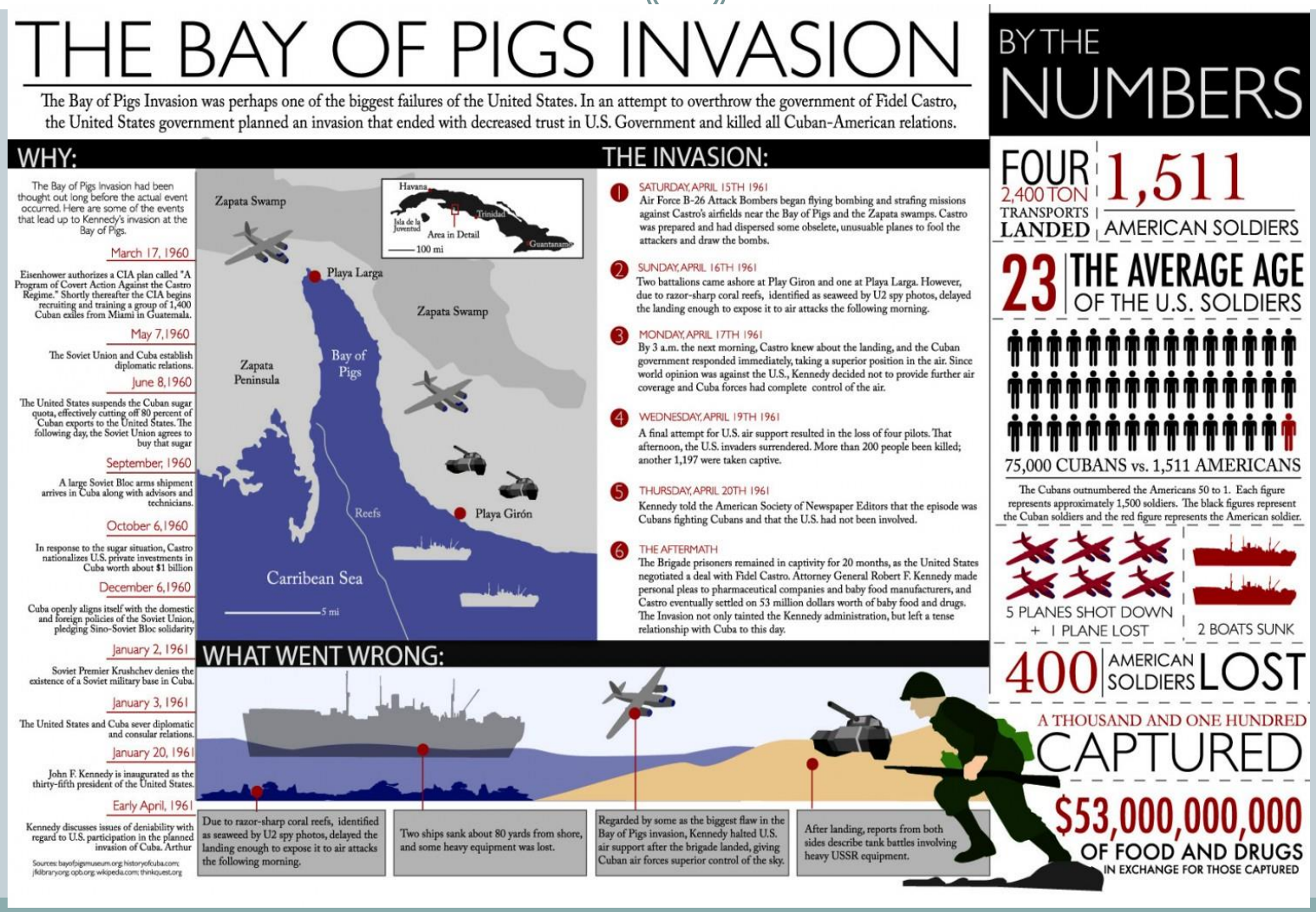
4/20/61
April 17, 1961 - Bay of Pigs Invasion
The U.S.-backed invasion fails.
90 exiles were killed and the rest
were captured.
C-SPAN 3
U.S. History

Fiasco


LIFE
RAW UNTOLD TRUTH
BY MEN WHO FOUGHT
Bay of Pigs
Heartbreaking Price
They Paid for
U.S. Miscalculations
MAY 10 · 1963 · 25¢

Speech to Invasion Brigade in Miami on 12-29-1962

Summary

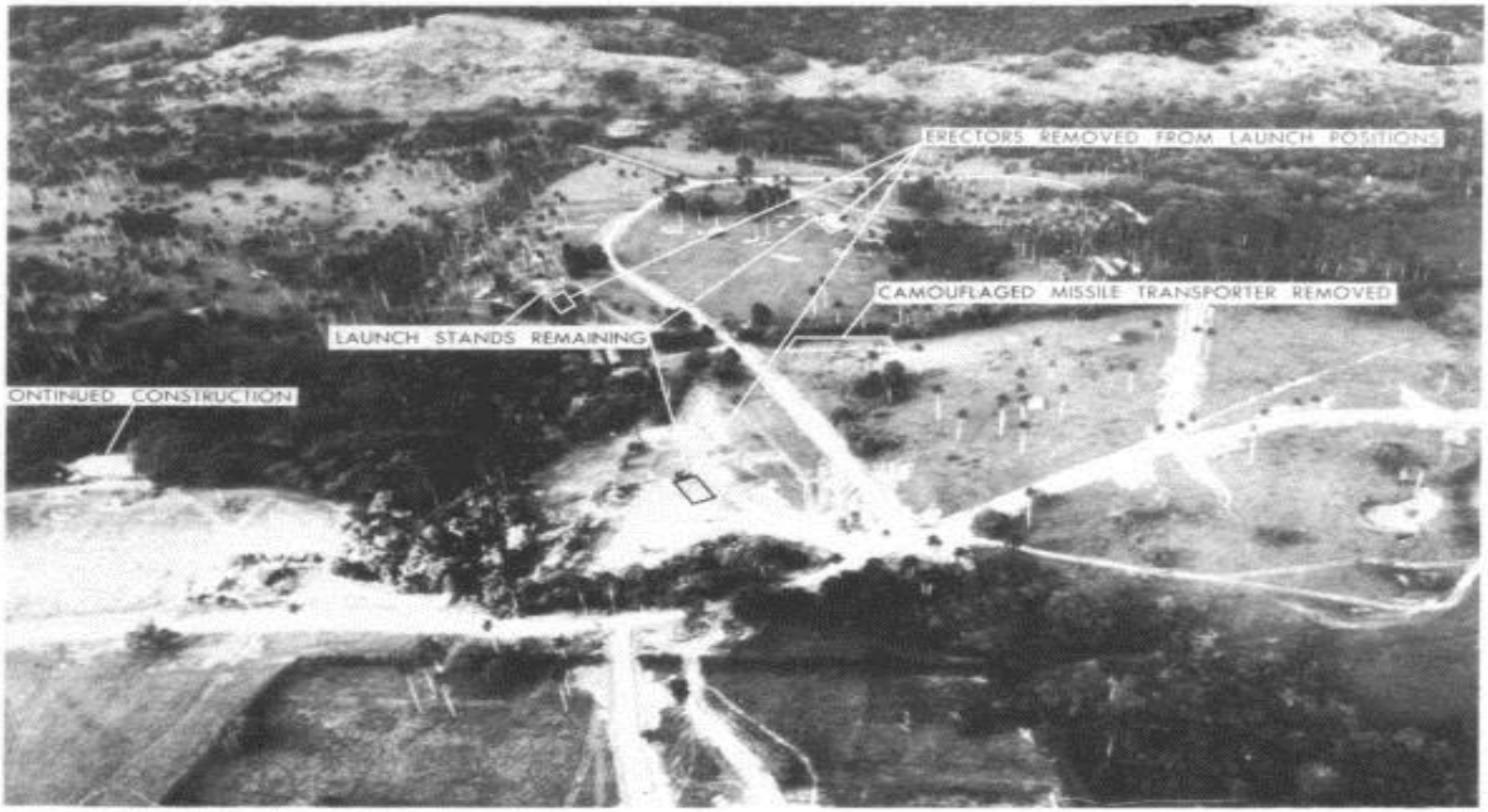

THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION
The Bay of Pigs Invasion was perhaps one of the biggest failures of the United States. In an attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro, the United States government planned an invasion that ended with decreased trust in U.S. Government and killed all Cuban-American relations.
WHY:
The Bay of Pigs Invasion had been thought out long before the actual event occurred. Here are some of the events that lead up to Kennedy's invasion at the Bay of Pigs.
March 17, 1960
Eisenhower authorizes a CIA plan called "A Program of Covert Action Against the Castro Regime." Shortly thereafter the CIA begins recruiting and training a group of 1,400 Cuban exiles from Miami in Guatemala.
May 7, 1960
The Soviet Union and Cuba establish diplomatic relations.
June 8, 1960
The United States suspends the Cuban sugar quota, effectively cutting off 80 percent of Cuban exports to the United States. The following day, the Soviet Union agrees to buy that sugar
September, 1960
A large Soviet Bloc arms shipment arrives in Cuba along with advisors and technicians.
October 6, 1960
In response to the sugar situation, Castro nationalizes U.S. private investments in Cuba worth about $1 billion
December 6, 1960
Cuba openly aligns itself with the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet Union, pledging Sino-Soviet Bloc solidarity
January 2, 1961
Soviet Premier Krushchev denies the existence of a Soviet military base in Cuba.
January 3, 1961
The United States and Cuba sever diplomatic and consular relations.
January 20, 1961
John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the thirty-fifth president of the United States.
Early April, 1961
Kennedy discusses issues of deniability with regard to U.S. participation in the planned invasion of Cuba. Arthur
Sources: bayofpigsmuseum.org; historyofcuba.com; jfklibrary.org; opb.org; wikipedia.com; thinkquest.org
Zapata Swamp
Havana
Isla de la Juventud
Trinidad
Area in Detail
100 mi
Guantanamo
Playa Larga
Zapata Swamp
Zapata Peninsula
Bay of Pigs
Reefs
Playa Girón
Carribean Sea
5 mi
THE INVASION:
1 SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 1961
Air Force B-26 Attack Bombers began flying bombing and strafing missions against Castro's airfields near the Bay of Pigs and the Zapata swamps. Castro was prepared and had dispersed some obselete, unusuable planes to fool the attackers and draw the bombs.
2 SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH 1961
Two battalions came ashore at Play Giron and one at Playa Larga. However, due to razor-sharp coral reefs, identified as seaweed by U2 spy photos, delayed the landing enough to expose it to air attacks the following morning.
3 MONDAY, APRIL 17TH 1961
By 3 a.m. the next morning, Castro knew about the landing, and the Cuban government responded immediately, taking a superior position in the air. Since world opinion was against the U.S., Kennedy decided not to provide further air coverage and Cuba forces had complete control of the air.
4 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH 1961
A final attempt for U.S. air support resulted in the loss of four pilots. That afternoon, the U.S. invaders surrendered. More than 200 people been killed; another 1,197 were taken captive.
5 THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH 1961
Kennedy told the American Society of Newspaper Editors that the episode was Cubans fighting Cubans and that the U.S. had not been involved.
6 THE AFTERMATH
The Brigade prisoners remained in captivity for 20 months, as the United States negotiated a deal with Fidel Castro. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy made personal pleas to pharmaceutical companies and baby food manufacturers, and Castro eventually settled on 53 million dollars worth of baby food and drugs. The Invasion not only tainted the Kennedy administration, but left a tense relationship with Cuba to this day.
WHAT WENT WRONG:
Due to razor-sharp coral reefs, identified as seaweed by U2 spy photos, delayed the landing enough to expose it to air attacks the following morning.
Two ships sank about 80 yards from shore, and some heavy equipment was lost.
Regarded by some as the biggest flaw in the Bay of Pigs invasion, Kennedy halted U.S. air support after the brigade landed, giving Cuban air forces superior control of the sky.
After landing, reports from both sides describe tank battles involving heavy USSR equipment.
BY THE NUMBERS
FOUR 2,400 TON TRANSPORTS LANDED
1,511 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
23 THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE U.S. SOLDIERS
75,000 CUBANS vs. 1,511 AMERICANS
The Cubans outnumbered the Americans 50 to 1. Each figure represents approximately 1,500 soldiers. The black figures represent the Cuban soldiers and the red figure represents the American soldier.
5 PLANES SHOT DOWN + 1 PLANE LOST
2 BOATS SUNK
400 AMERICAN SOLDIERS LOST
A THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED CAPTURED
$53,000,000,000 OF FOOD AND DRUGS IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE CAPTURED

Cuban Missile Crisis

I. To the Brink

1. acceleration of revolutionary changes in Cuba
2. agreement to install nuclear missiles
3. strategic considerations
4. U-2 reconnaissance
5. EXCOM's three options: naval blockade, air strike or military invasion
6. Kennedy vs. Khrushchev: missiles withdrawn
7. perceptions vs. realities

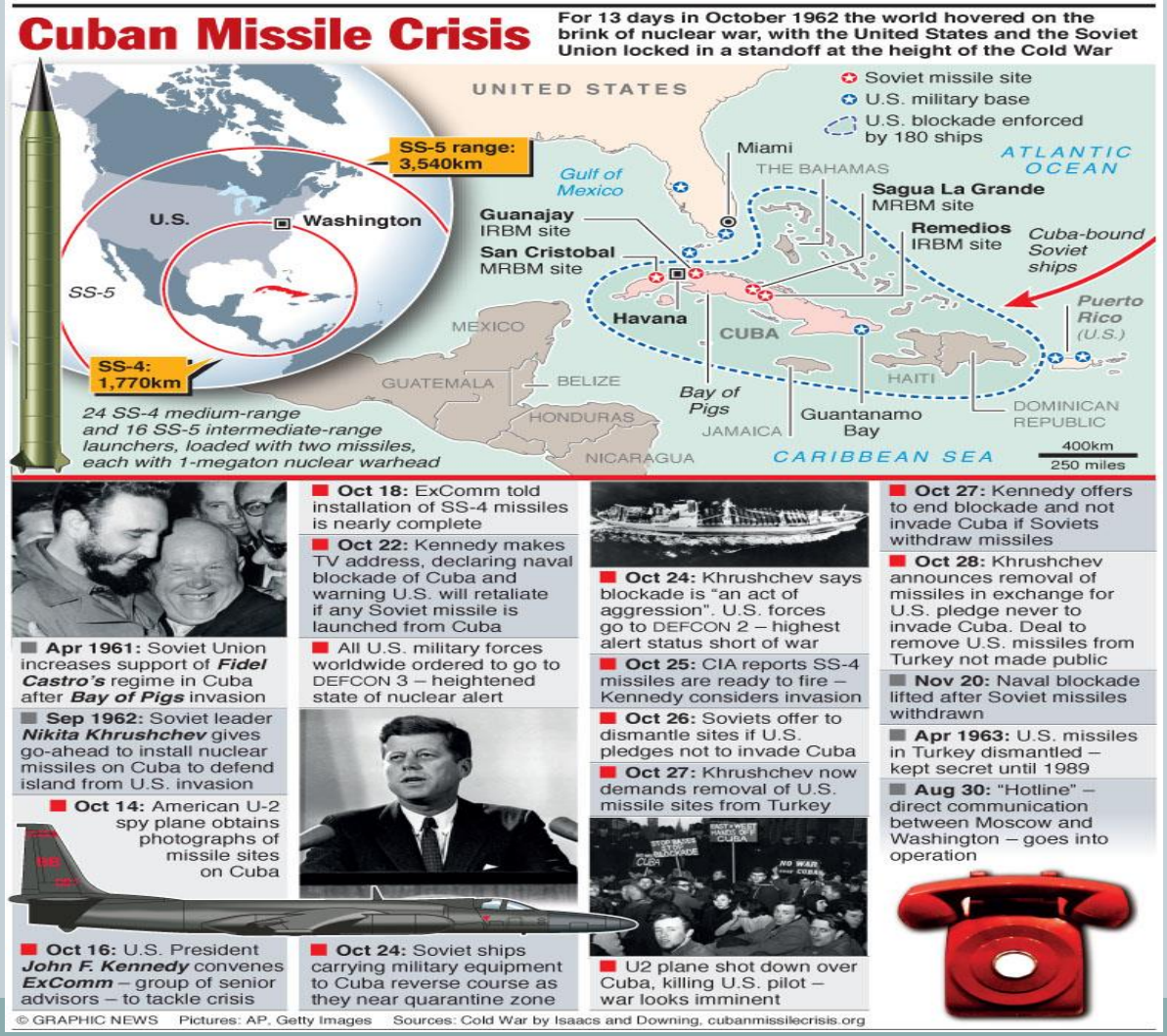
U-2 Reconnaissance



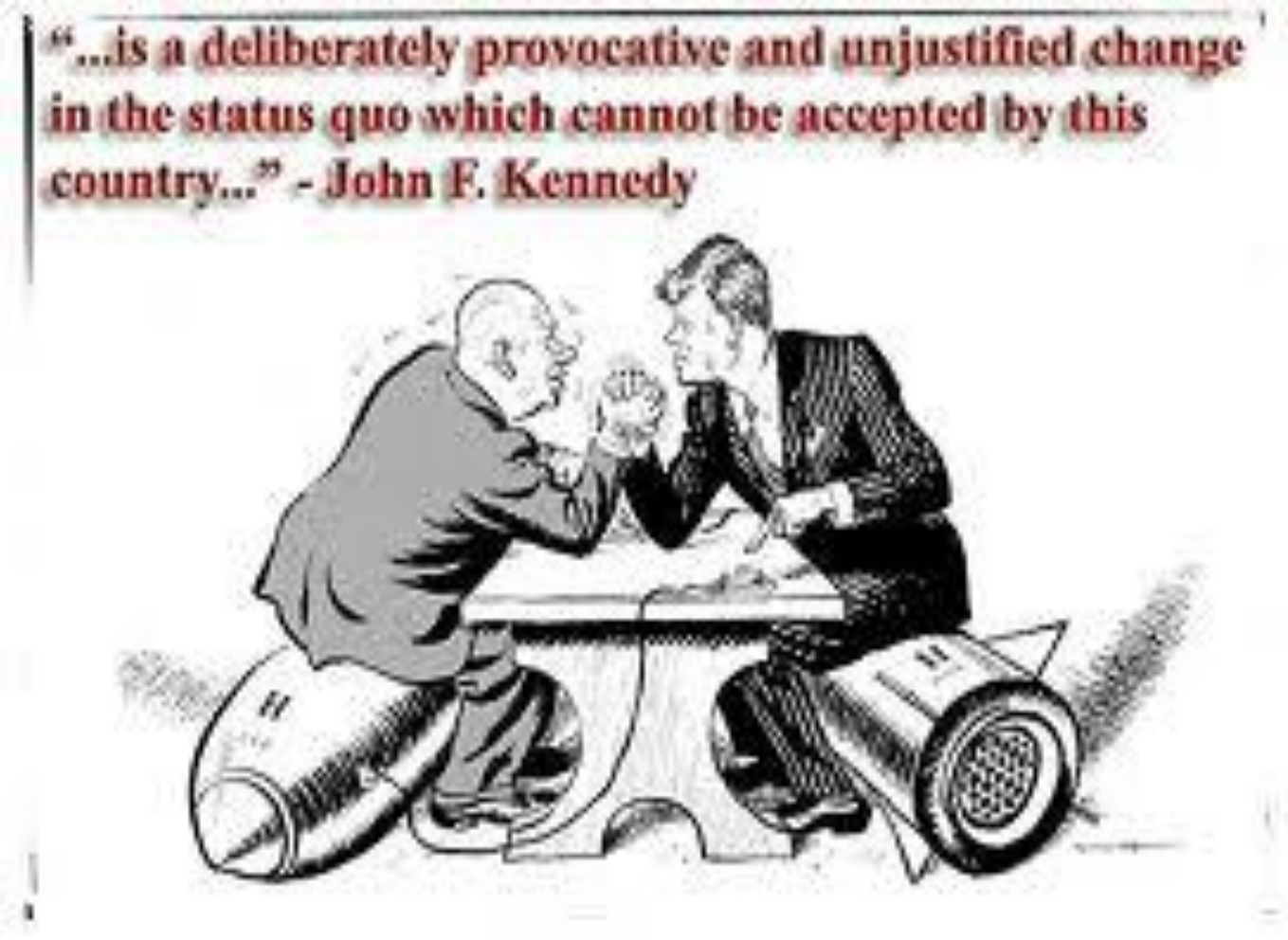
Oblique view of a Cuban MRBM site following removal of launch erectors and a missile transporter. On this date, launch stands were still in place and construction was under way on the nuclear warhead storage facility at the left. Courtesy U.S. Air Force.

U.S. Intelligence

Thirteen Days



Eyeball to Eyeball



Radicalization of 1960s

Radicalization of the System

A. Reshaping in the mid-1960s

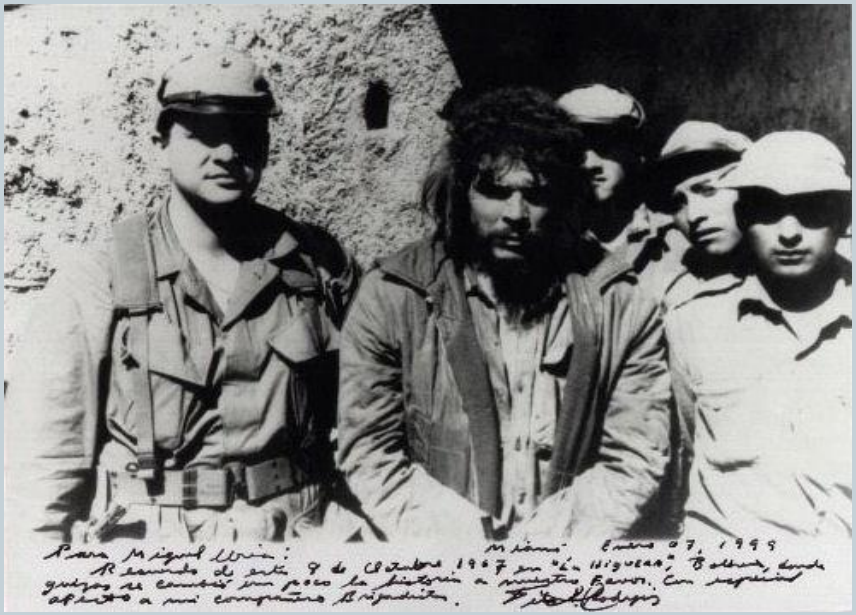
1. planning
2. ideology
3. economic experimentation
    a. challenges and failures

B. Sino-Guevarism, 1966-70

1. Chinese model
2. “new man”
3. mobilization campaigns
4. exporting revolution - focos
5. revolutionary offensive
6. defeat of revolutionary drive

Che in Africa 1965: "This is the history of a failure."

Che Guevara in Bolivia 1967



Execution and Public Display

Che Guevara Mausoleum, Santa Clara

Revolution Square, Havana
Jean Paul Sartre: Che was "the most complete human being of our time".

Retrenchment

Return to the Soviet Model, 1970-76

1. restructuring and retreat from idealism
2. legal institutionalization - Constitution
3. state machinery
4. stabilization
5. involvement in Africa

10 Million Ton Sugar Harvest Campaign

Cuban Internationalism

1980s

In the 1980s the focus of friction in U.S.-Cuban relations shifted to also include immigration issues. A major crisis unfolded.

In April 1980 an estimated ten thousand Cubans stormed the Peruvian embassy in Havana seeking political asylum. Eventually, the Cuban government allowed 125,000 Cubans to illegally depart for the United States from the port of Mariel, an incident known as the "Mariel boatlift." A number of criminals and mentally ill persons were involuntarily included.

Quiet efforts to explore the prospects for improving relations were initiated in 1981-82 under the Reagan administration, but ceased as Cuba continued to intervene in Latin America.

In 1983, the United States and regional allies forced the withdrawal of the Cuban presence in Grenada

Mariel Boatlift