

RB-207

CBC

This is Lionel Martin in Havana - Exactly twenty seven years ago today, April 17, 1961, an invasion force of exiled cubans, trained and equipped by the CIA, landed on Cuban shores at the Bay of Pigs with the purpose of bringing down Fidel Castro's two year old Revolutionary regime. Here is the story*

The contra's, that is the Cuban exiles twenty seven years ago left for the Bay of Pigs invasion from CIA staging areas in Guatemala and the Nicaragua of dictator Anastasio Somoza. *John I*

The CIA plan, which had been approved by President ~~Robert~~ Kennedy, was to secure a firm beach-head around the Bay of Pigs and to fly over from Florida a Cuban provisional government which would then be immediately recognized by Washington.

If this plan had been successful, it would have meant that the United States could send military aid to the new and in its eyes, legitimate government of Cuba.

The CIA analysts were confident that once the invasion began, the Cuban people would rise up against Fidel Castro's revolutionary government. That assessment proved to be wrong. The Cubans rag tag army made up in part of the Havana police force and contingents of the volunteer peoples militia sped to the front to meet the invaders. In seventy two hours the battle was over - and most of the invaders captured. Later, the captured ~~men~~ were exchanged for baby food and medicines.

For CBC News this is Lionel Martin in Havana

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On the 27th Anniversary of The 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion

Spoke to Heather before sending - yes

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