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Sen. Sparkman Demands Truth on CIA Cuban Role

By DANIEL MASON

SEN. JOHN SPARKMAN (D-Ala) last Saturday demanded a "full disclosure" of the Central Intelligence Agency's activities in the Bay of Pigs fiasco of April 19, 1961. In a taped TV program, Sparkman, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, charged that Allen W. Dulles, former CIA head, "had misjudged the spirit of the Cuban people" in telling the mercenaries that "the Cuban people would rise up and support them."

Sparkman then continued:

"When the Cuban refugees landed there, instead of the Cuban people rising up to support them and to meet them, they were met by militia, Cuban militia, and they were never able to get an effective toehold."

A day earlier Sen. George S. McGovern (D-SD) warned in the Senate, "We have had too many who are willing to shed the blood of our soldiers in an invasion of Cuba."

McGovern, surprise winner in the 1962 elections, attacked the entire concept of the Bay of Pigs invasion, charging:

"We had no more legal right to undertake air cover for any other military aggression against Cuba than the Russians would have in invading Turkey. We have offensive nuclear weapons, not 90 miles from Russian territory but in Turkey on the Soviet border, capable of delivering Russian cities in a matter of minutes.

"The Cuban invasion, originally conceived in the previous administration, we have been asked to take both in connection with the execution, for which Mr. Kennedy has been [illegible] blame. Why compound the error by probing the ruins of a mistaken venture, and then calling for a repeat performance?"

Noting the recent Gallup poll which revealed that the nation overwhelmingly opposed a Cuban invasion, McGovern declared:

"The people understand better than some political figures that such an effort misses the real nature of the challenge before us."

Responsibility of Washington for the invasion attempt was underscored by Sen. George A. Smathers (D-Fla) when he admitted on the Senate floor March 15:

"This plan for the invasion of the Bay of Pigs had not been some new development of the new administration because we know that, as a matter of fact, these men were gathered and sent to Guatemala for training in 1960, before the change of administration."

Smathers warned Congress on new action against Cuba:

"When we talk about strong measures today, particularly when we imply force even though we may not say it, we are in reality talking about a direct confrontation of the military forces of the Soviet Union, unless we first are successful in getting these forces out of Cuba. Such a confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States forces we have not had thus far in our history."

He made clear that an invasion of Cuba, even if the Cuban nation had to fight alone, would be disastrous for the U.S. declaring:

"How many casualties, American casualties, would it cost to subdue Cuba?

"I have no access to contingency plans but we hear figures such as a month and 100,000 casualties. I gather that our military planners see no quick, glorious charge up San Juan hill now. Rather they envision a long, grueling and bloody war waged in the most exhausting and savage tradition of the 20th century world wars."

And he added:

"How do we know that the war to liberate Cuba will not really touch off the total thermonuclear conflict which each of us prays daily will not occur. Soviet Defense Minister Malinovsky says it will. Can we assume he does not mean it?"

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