Phoenix - Pfeiffer
Tape 3A

Comment on Gray & Baker deaths

JBP Rusk was there. I mean Cabell... Cabell and Bissell and Rusk were in Rusk's office and they were going through it, and Rusk had the telephone in his hand and Kennedy was on the other end of the horn, and they had gone to Rusk's office and they had protested the cancellation of the second strike. They had talked back and forth with Rusk, and Rusk got on the phone and called Kennedy at Glen Ora and told him what their feelings were, and Kennedy asked Rusk what his feeling was, and Rusk said he believed that it should be cancelled, and he then asked Cabell and Bissell if they would like to talk to the President and they both declined. End of conversation.

GT JESUS CHRIST!

JBP But that's the way that went.

MACHINE OFF FOR FEW COMMENTS.

JBP Is this your interview with Kirkpatrick?

GT Yeah, he called down. He wanted to know if there was any possibility that any of the Americans that were shot down were alive, and there... some pictures came out of Cuba that I took up to them, and showed Gray and Pete and Baker...their aircraft. It was only...there was a picture of Gray with a bullet between his eyes, and in no physical damage, and his boots were gone, and the boots were off of Baker also, but no burns, so it indicated to us that they had crash landed next to the sugar mill which is one of the targets...one of the Headquarters. It was obviously militia that had got them, because they had pulled them out of the cockpit and shot them, not knowing the worth, of course, to Castro that they could have gotten these two Americans alive. But they obviously had just executed them both after they crash landed, and Kirkpatrick was quite moved by that picture, I put that on his desk, I said, "well here is proof that one's not alive." Kirk was quite shook up about the whole thing, and he thanked us, and then he asked us generally about the operation...he was IG at the time.

Gray not in same a/c with Gray & Baker. Went into crash with Shamburger.

JBP One version of that is, that they crashed and that one or the other of them, I have seen two versions -- one is that the pilot and the other is that it was the navigator -- one or the other of them got out with a sidearm, and was killed in a gun fight with the militia.

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