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## The 'Lessons Of Cuba'

A "painful appraisal" of what went wrong in the Cuba invasion is being undertaken by a panel headed by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former Army chief of staff.

And until the panel reports, the public is likely to learn little more than the speculations of recent days about why the Cuban exiles' efforts to overthrow Castro ended in such a dismal failure.

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Serving on the Presidentially-appointed panel with General Taylor are Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who has been accused in some quarters of having failed to size up the Cuban picture accurately, and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother.

Confusing the "who's to blame" picture has been some bantering back and forth across party lines, with certain Democrats implying that all the present Administration did was to carry out plans made under the Eisenhower Administration. This naturally brought forth some sharp rejoinders from Republicans who said attempts to blame the Cuban failure on President Eisenhower are pretty shoddy politics.

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President Kennedy finally had to step in and declare that the present Administration assumes all responsibility for whatever went wrong. Then he went a step further and knocked a few heads together within his Administration with the state-

ment that he didn't want any blame-shifting to the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department or the Defense Department, either.

It seems to us that blame-placing for what happened in Cuba is relevant to the task ahead only so far as it serves as a guide for what not to do in the future.

The "lessons of Cuba"—as the Administration is now referring to the invasion fiasco — should include the lesson that recriminations and pointing at about "who goofed" will serve also to disunite this Nation in face of the most appalling Communist threat our hemisphere has ever faced.

It should be realized that several of our Latin American neighbors have already benefitted from the "lessons of Cuba." Honduras, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Columbia and Venezuela quickly communicated their "solidarity with the United States" in the face of the Cuban crisis — and Communist-inspired demonstrations against the U. S. fizzled completely in all but one Latin American country in which they had been scheduled.

There is a growing indication, happily, that what used to be regarded as "Yankee intervention" is now being more widely recognized for what it is—the vital defense of the western hemisphere.

We only hope General Taylor's study doesn't get so bogged down with details that it misses the big lessons that already are appearing.