

JUN 13 1961

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R0002005

STATINTL

Lack of Air Cover Doomed Invasion, Eisenhower Says

CINCINNATI, June 12 (AP). — Old soldier Dwight D. Eisenhower still says no invasion can be successful without adequate air cover if there is opposing air power by the defense.

Gen. Eisenhower, who directed allied landings in World War II, made his statement yesterday in commenting on the abortive invasion of Cuba by forces opposed to the regime of Fidel Castro.

The statement, at a news conference, came only a day after new Republican National Chairman William E. Miller declared President Kennedy "rescinded and revoked the Eisenhower plan to have the Cuban freedom fighters protected by American air power."

The former President said his administration was not aware in advance of any plan on the part of Cuban refugees to invade their homeland and overthrow the Castro regime.

He said, however, he had directed his staff members on March 17, 1960, to "take measures to help these people organize and to help train them and equip them." The aim, he said, was to make these refugees ready if an opportunity was presented for them.

Gen. Eisenhower said he was aware of large groups of Cuban refugees in the United States and Central America who were eager to find ways to overthrow the Castro regime. But during his administration, he said, the refugees had found no common leader and had no specific plan of invasion.

As for the trade-for-prisoners proposal, the former President said "this is unquestionably a special case.... The President (Mr. Kennedy) put out the prestige of the United States. But he said:

"As a matter of principle, most of it would be against anything that would lead to international blackmail as a way of conducting foreign affairs."

The former President also said the United States cannot very much longer "keep in the matter of returning and testing." He said the United States had to have a "principal member."

Alternately grave and genial, former President Eisenhower goes into a familiar routine as he answers newsmen's questions during a Cincinnati press conference. —AP Wirephoto.

day at Lunken Airport. Hearty, he said, "I was chowered with ticker tape and confetti as he rode in an open automobile to downtown Cincinnati."

Then came a series of conferences with Republican Party leaders and workers and the next conference.

The windup was at 6:00 p.m. at a dinner at Cincinnati's Music Hall with a parade down of 100th Street.

Senator Thurston Monroe of Kentucky, who recently resigned as chairman of the Republican National Committee, was a principal member. He

was chowered with ticker tape and confetti as he rode in an open automobile to downtown Washington. We want to see him but we want it to be possible.

The former President also said there is a "bad word" in the "bad word."

"I think we should not be reluctant to use our words. I think we should be able to pay for our way and practice the way."

At his news conference, the former President answered sharply to a question as to