

JBP Did Nixon have any direct role in our activity in the .. anti-Castro activity in the period from March 60 through January 61? He had a meeting with Castro ...

JE I think he was a pretty heavy monitor as to what was going on during that time, and what not; and as I think I told you one time when we talked superficially about it ... I am one of those who feels it is very wrong to pick too much on Jack Kennedy because it was Nixon who, if we had kicked off things as we had hoped for, between

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November and January of 60-61, it might not have worked, but it would not have been a major disaster. It would just have been another little thing, but Nixon, because of the election I am told -- this is not direct from him -- but I am told that Nixon thought well, they had better wait until the election before they mounted anything of that sort. Then after we lost the election, they felt that they didn't know whether they wanted to do it or not, and the end was that it just kept escalating and turning into the nightmares that became the Bay of Pigs, which they then dumped on Jack Kennedy's lap ... with him, without any real previous experience in anything of this sort.