

DDE -- Not this particular plan. All we could do -- there was no leader, no recognized leader yet, all we could do while I was there, and I told the succeeding President the whole story. We got the people who themselves as individuals wanted to go back -- so we organized them and began to arm them with suitable equipment, light equipment, and to be ready when they were ready and could organize themselves under politically. See, until you could recognize someone as a government in exile, a Cuban, what could you do from our viewpoint? You might as well go and attack them yourself. So, what was done, we got them trained, we did everything possible to get them ready but until they got their own leader, who we wanted to see -- we always felt we would put him ashore with them, then we would recognize him and we could help him. All of this didn't happen in five minutes but we had no way of making special studies.

ARW -- Sir, I often wondered, very famous picture shows President Kennedy and yourself at Augusta. This is right after the Cuban crisis and shows you walking together. Were you discussing the Cuban crises?

DDE -- Oh yes, as a matter of fact, he asked me to meet him. We agreed to meet at Camp David, up here and he came right down to the plane and he met me and we went off. We had a long talk -- he didn't know at that time apparently all of the things that had happened, like the story of Charlie Mercer ... unfortunately he wrote the story damn near accurate -- he might have had a few names wrong but that is all. So he was asking what to do now and he wanted to know what I thought would be the Russian reaction. Well, I said the Russian reaction would be nothing, because they don't do things by

reaction -- they figure out a plan and they follow it and sometimes too far but they don't do it by reaction at all. In other words, he was afraid, he said, the reason he didn't go ahead and let the world know that America had helped on that thing was because the Russians would be now tougher in Berlin but they don't act that way. They calculate whether something will be a dangerous thing to do or can they be pretty aggressive about it. He was more interested in what I thought he should do now, than what the Russians would like to do.

ARW -- National Security Council -- you used that too great deal?

DDE -- I used the National Security Council for this reason. It used to be that anything that touched foreign affairs was State Department and State Department only. The Army or the Military establishment might be occasionally consulted by the State Department, but it really never was. I was there, I know. I mean when I was a young staff officer, the State Department and we fellows didn't even know each others secretaries. Now, the Foreign Affairs has gotten so complex that no State Department can even have control over it. When we export wheat -- export wheat to India, this has an effect on Burma for they lose their markets for they always sold India rice. Everything you do, and this was in the Commerce Department or the Agriculture getting rid of surpluses, then you have labor attaches abroad, you got commercial attaches, now the next thing is finances. Today you read much in your economic reports about the out-put of the gold and what it means. I am reading a book right now about this fellow, Russ, a great French thinker in this field. The Government and all of its phases is interested in the situation or I might say our position in the international world and its relation to