Discussion Questions:

1. Why did President Dwight D. Eisenhower order the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to train Cuban exiles? Where were the exiles initially trained? Where were the training grounds moved?

President Eisenhower ordered the CIA to train Cuban exiles in order to carry out the bay of pigs initiative on cuba. This was also used to avoid the use of American Troops, which would likely not have been supported. The CIA began to train troops in the American Canal Zone. However to avoid accusations of aid, a deal with the president of guatemala was made, and the training grounds moved to guatemala.

2. Imagine you are President Kennedy. After you learned about the Soviet Union’s support of Cuba, would you have altered the Bay of Pigs Invasion plan? Why or why not?

This alone would not have prompted me to alter the bay of pigs invasion plan, I would have first asked my military advisors how this changes the situation, with the knowledge that they may prefer war. What would have caused me to alter the plan however was their knowledge of the landing spot, without the element of surprise this plan would be an instant failure. Additionally after learning of soviet union aid I *may* have given the troops different/better weapons.

3. Why was Trinidad an ideal location for the Cuban exiles to land for the Bay of Pigs Invasion?

Trinidad was southeast of Havana making it less likely to contain many pro-castro supporters.

4. Was the CIA cover story effective?

No, multiple CIA agents resigned, in addition information about the cover story is publicly available. It probably would have been had it not been for the cover story.

5. Describe the land battle between the Cubans and the exiles.

The battle was over fairly quickly due to the lack of air support. Another reason it ended quickly was many, almost 100,000 anti-castro cubans were thrown in jail ending any chance of rebellion. One flaw in the plan was relying on external forces to try and win the battle. 1,209 were captured, in exchange for these exiles the U.S. gave cuba 53 Million dollars in food.

6. Should President Kennedy have resigned along with prominent CIA officials? Why or why not?

No he should not have, even though he was in charge of the order that foiled the operation, it was not designed by him. Additionally Kennedy resigning would have created a lack of stability in the US.