

ARCHIVES PROCESSING NOTE

You will find two versions of the document withdrawal sheets in this file. The original document withdrawal sheets were completed in the 1970s and early 1980s. Since that time, many of the documents have been declassified. In an effort to make the withdrawal sheets easier to use, we have updated the withdrawal sheets, listing only the documents that are still closed. Use these updated withdrawal sheets to request Mandatory Declassification Review of closed security classified documents.

The original withdrawal sheets are in a mylar sleeve in the front of the folder. We have retained them in the file so that you can see the status of the documents when the folder was opened and the history of their declassification. Please replace the sheets in the mylar sleeve when you have finished examining them.

January 22, 2007

LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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<u>Doc #</u>	<u>DocType</u>	<u>Doc Info</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Restriction</u>
008	memo	to SecDef, et al re Aircraft Accident [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	2	01/18/66	A
009	report	re: mid-air collision [Sanitized 5/7/07 NLJ/RAC 05-20]	S	3	undated	A
028	cable	#65908 [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	12	undated	A
029	cable	#61510 [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	4	undated	A
030	cable	#51711 from DASA [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	4	01/21/66	A
031	cable	#61642 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	9	1/66	A
037	cable	#53337 from CSAF [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	3	01/19/66	A
042	cable	#57897 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain [Sanitized 1/10/07 NLJ 05-19]	S	4	1/66	A
051	cable	Madrid 871 [Sanitized 5/7/07 NLJ/RAC 05-20]	S	4	01/22/66	A

Collection Title National Security File, Country File**Folder Title** "Spain, 1/17/66, TS/RD B-52/KC-135 Accident"**Box Number** 204

Restriction Codes

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 13292 governing access to national security information.
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5/7/2007

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Initials

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#2 message	re: aircraft accident <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> confidential	2 p 08/10/66	A
#3 memo	to President from WH Situation Room <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> confidential	1 p 03/17/66	A
#4a cable	Madrid 857 secret (gp 3) <i>open 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	1 p 01/19/66	A
#4b cable	Madrid 855 <i>open 11-18-04</i> secret <i>sanitized 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	2 p 01/19/66	A
#5 memo	to President from WH Situation Room secret <i>open 11-18-04</i>	1 p 01/18/66	A
#6 report	re: accident in southeastern Spain top secret <i>open 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	2 p 01/19/66	A
#8 memo	to SecDef, et al re aircraft accident secret <i>sanitized 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	2 p 01/18/66	A
#9 report	re: mid-air collision secret <i>sanitized 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i> <i>Sanitized 5-7-07 NLJ/RAL 0520</i>	3 p undated	A
#10 memo	to President from WH Situation Room <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> secret	1 p 01/23/66	A
#11 memo	to President from WH Situation Room <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> secret	1 p 01/22/66	A
#12 memo	to President from WH Situation Room <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> secret	1 p 01/18/66	A
#13 memo	to the President from WH Situation Room <i>open 4-14-89 NLJ 88-141</i> secret	2 p 01/18/66	A
#15 memo	to President from WH Situation Room top secret <i>sanitized 10-18-90 NLJ 88-216</i> <i>downgraded to NLJ 88-216</i>	2 p 01/17/66	A
#17 memo	to Bromley Smith from Art McCafferty top secret <i>open 10-18-90 NLJ 88-216</i>	1 p 01/17/66	A
#21 cable	#071 re: Aircraft Salvops Med (II) 08X18X88 confidential <i>open 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	1 p 03/16/66	A
#39 cable	C19030/1 Secret <i>open 1-10-89 NLJ 88-217</i>	2 p 01/19/66	A

FILE LOCATION

NATIONAL SECURITY FILE, Country File
Spain 1/17/66, TS/RD B-52/KC-135 Accident
Box 204

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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#24 cable	#71088 to Sec of Def. Secret - <i>open 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i>	3 p <i>undated</i>	A
#25 cable	#70834 from CINCLANTFLT secret <i>sanitized 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i> <i>open 5-1-87 NLJ 88-215</i>	2 p <i>undated</i>	A
#27 cable	#67589 from 16AF ADVON secret <i>open 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i>	3 p <i>undated</i>	A
#28 cable	#65908 secret <i>sanitized 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i> <i>more info released 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	12 p <i>undated</i>	A
#29 cable	#61510 secret <i>sanitized 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i> <i>more info released 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	4 p <i>undated</i>	A
#30 cable	#51711 from DASA secret <i>sanitized 11-21-96 NLJ 95-101</i> <i>more info released 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	4 p <i>01/21/66</i>	A
#31 cable	#61642 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain secret <i>sanitized 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i> <i>SAME SANITIZATION 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	9 p <i>1/66</i>	A
#32 cable	re: aircraft accident secret <i>open 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	1 p <i>1/20/66</i>	A
#33 cable	RUEAHQ 32 from CSAF top secret <i>open 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	1 p <i>undated</i>	A
#34 cable	#49311 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain secret <i>sanitized 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i> <i>open 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	3 p <i>01/10/--</i>	A
#35 cable	#59141 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain secret <i>open 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i>	7 p <i>1/66</i>	A
#36 cable	#59032 from CSAF Secret <i>sanitized 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i> <i>open 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	3 p <i>01/19/66</i>	A
#37 cable	#53337 from CSAF Secret <i>sanitized 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i> <i>more info released 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i>	3 p <i>01/19/66</i>	A
#38 cable	#00527 from SAC Secret <i>open 2-6-91 NLJ 88-215</i>	2 p <i>01/66</i>	A
#41 cable	#41960 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain secret <i>open 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i>	5 p <i>01/19/--</i>	A
#42 cable	#57879 from 16AF Torrejon AB Spain secret <i>sanitized 2-14-91 NLJ 88-220</i>	4 p <i>1/66</i>	A
FILE LOCATION	<i>Same Sanitization 1-10-07 NLJ 05-19</i> NATIONAL SECURITY FILE, Country File Spain 1/17/66, TS/RD B-52/KC-135 Accident Box 204		

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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#44 cable	Deptel 18300 secret Example NLJ 88-142 Example 1999 NLJ 95-102 2 p	03/30/66	A
<i>open 5.7.07 NLJ/RK 05.20</i>			
#45 cable	Madrid 1226 confidential <i>open 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	03/18/66	A
#47 cable	Madrid 1054 confidential "	02/25/66	A
#48 cable	Madrid 903 confidential "	01/27/66	A
#49 cable	Madrid 896 confidential "	01/26/66	A
#50 cable	Deptel 888 to DOD Wash DC confidential "	01/25/66	A
#51 cable	Madrid 871 secret <i>sanitized 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	01/22/66	A
<i>open 5.7.07 NLJ/RK 05.20</i>			
#52 cable	Madrid 869 confidential <i>sanitized 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	01/21/66	A
<i>open 5.7.07 NLJ/RK 05.20</i>			
#53 cable	Madrid 867 confidential <i>open 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	01/21/66	A
#54 cable	Madrid 857 secret "	01/19/66	A
#55 cable	Madrid 856 confidential "	01/19/66	A
#56 cable	Madrid 855 secret <i>sanitized 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	01/19/66	A
<i>open 11.18.07</i>			
#57 cable	Deptel 06998 secret <i>open 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	02/12/66	A
#58 cable	#341 from SecState, Washington, DC secret <i>open 8-23-88 NLJ 88-142</i>	01/20/66	A
#59 cable	Deptel 12217 to Madrid secret "	01/21/66	A
#60 cable	Deptel 08319 to Madrid confidential "	01/17/66	A

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VIA Pouch

U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY

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INFOGUIDE 66-8

March 4, 1966

SENT TO: ALL PRINCIPAL USIS POSTS

INFOGUIDE: Talking Paper No. 28 -- "The Bomb in Spain"

NOTE: Do not volunteer the information in the Talking Paper below.
Use it only if you are asked, and as local circumstances require.

THE BOMB IN SPAIN

(1) QUESTION: Have you lost a nuclear bomb?

ANSWER: There were several unarmed nuclear weapons aboard the U. S. B-52 bomber which crashed January 17, 1966, at Palomares in Spain. One of those weapons has not yet been located.

(2) QUESTION: How many bombs were involved in all?

ANSWER: Four.

(3) QUESTION: Were they nuclear or thermonuclear weapons?

ANSWER: Thermonuclear.

(4) QUESTION: Did any of them explode?

ANSWER: If you mean whether there was a nuclear explosion, the answer is emphatically no. Two of the weapons experienced nonnuclear, TNT-type explosions on impact with the ground. This resulted in the scattering of plutonium (PU-239) and uranium (U-235) in a small area in the immediate vicinity of impact -- at most, 100 or 150 feet around the impact point.

Drafted by:

IOP:JOHanson:fls 3/4/66

TRANSMISSION AND
CLASSIFICATION
APPROVED BY:

Hewson A. Ryan

Clearances:

IOP - Mr. Pauker

State:P/PG - Mr. Dillon

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(5) QUESTION: Will the missing bomb go off? Will it cause radioactive contamination?

ANSWER: Again, the answer to both questions, emphatically, is -- no.

There is no reason for concern, either about a nuclear explosion or radioactivity. U. S. nuclear weapons contain safeguards designed expressly to prevent an accidental nuclear explosion. We have had no such explosion during our 20 years of handling nuclear weapons. Radioactivity from the missing weapon would pose no threat, even if the weapon broke up and some of the nuclear material were scattered. U. S. and Spanish scientists have determined that no health hazard exists as a result of the January 1966 accident.

(6) QUESTION: If it is so safe, why are you hunting for the lost bomb?

ANSWER: To recover the bomb, the design of which is highly classified; to recover other classified material, and also debris from the wreckage which may help analyze causes of the crash.

(7) QUESTION: Is this the first crash of an aircraft with nuclear weapons aboard?

ANSWER: No, there have been others -- and none has resulted in a nuclear explosion.

The safety record of the U. S. nuclear weapons program has been exceptional in two ways: (a) accidents have been very few; (b) accidents with nuclear explosions have never happened, because highly reliable safety features have been designed into every weapon. The result has been a weapon so safe that accidental nuclear explosion is precluded even when the weapon is struck, dropped from great heights, or subjected to fire. The most that has ever happened -- and it happened in the crash in Spain -- is that a small part of the nuclear material in a bomb has been scattered over a small area. This material produces alpha radiation -- rays of very short range which cannot pierce skin, hence pose no threat of "external radiation" (from outside the body) as do rays from a nuclear explosion.

(8) QUESTION: When and where were the previous crashes with nuclear weapons aboard?

ANSWER: There

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ANSWER: There have been several such accidents since 1958, all publicly announced by the U. S.

(9) QUESTION: What about the plutonium which was scattered when the bomb broke up in Spain? Isn't that terribly radioactive?

ANSWER: Contrary to popular impression, alpha rays from plutonium cannot even penetrate the skin. Plutonium is a man-made element and its properties are very well known. In the form used in weapons it is a heavy, dark brown or black metal similar to lead. Alpha rays extend only a few centimeters in air and are stopped by any solid, such as tissue paper or skin, and plutonium can be safely held in the hand. There is thus no hazard from plutonium outside the body.

It can be swallowed in small quantities with negligible hazard, since in weapons grade it is virtually insoluble and almost all of it quickly passes on out of the body.

Taken into the lungs in large quantities, it can cause a hazard. However, plutonium scattering experiments in Nevada since 1957 showed that even if a person standing in a cloud of plutonium dust inhaled the material, it would result in a radiation dose to the lungs that is only about half the yearly amount permitted for all organs in the body of a U. S. atomic industry worker. This permissible dose level is prescribed in standards issued by the International Commission on Radiation Protection, a group of scientists from a number of countries.

The Nevada experiments tell us that hazardous levels of inhalation did not exist in Spain and are unlikely to exist in similar accidents. Spanish and U. S. scientists have explored all possibilities of risk to health and they are convinced no health hazard occurred in this case.

The properties of uranium, which was also present in the accident in Spain, are similar but even less potent. Metallic plutonium and uranium of the types used in weapons are completely different from "fission products" -- the products of a nuclear explosion or reaction -- which pose an external health hazard (from outside the body). The weapons materials are very heavy. Fragments settle to earth or sink in water rapidly, within a very limited area. If there were particles small enough to be suspended in water, they would soon be dispersed.

(10) QUESTION:

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(10) QUESTION: If plutonium and uranium are so safe, why did you make radiological surveys and buy up crops and farm animals in Spain, and why are you removing soil?

ANSWER: Such measures are part of the standard, planned-in-advance emergency procedures in any accident involving nuclear armament. They are intended to go to the point of absolute assurance -- to take extra precautions on the safe side. U. S. standards are based on "lifetime" exposures. This means that if a certain amount of radioactive material might be dangerous to a man living in it or working with it for a lifetime, we clean up and correct those conditions with a very large margin of safety in every case.

(11) QUESTION: How do you know that the tomatoes, meat, and milk from the farms in the area of impact in Spain are not contaminated?

ANSWER: We know this definitely, from repeated surveys made by leading Spanish and American scientists at the site. All produce which could conceivably have been affected has been disposed of. The remainder shows no trace of radioactive material. There is no hazard whatever from consuming those farm products. In fact, Spaniards and Americans at the site have been eating them regularly, and the farmers have been moving their products to market again for some time.

(12) QUESTION: What about the ocean water -- and the fish?

ANSWER: Tests conducted on the sea water by U. S. scientists have failed to detect the slightest sign of radioactivity from this accident. Even if some small amount of the nuclear material were released into the water, it would form an insoluble compound that is heavy, and thus would sink to the bottom. Any particles small enough to be suspended in the water would be greatly dispersed and diluted amid masses of sea water, and hence would represent no health hazard.

Tests on fish in the area have also been entirely negative -- no radioactivity. This too is natural, since fish would not be likely to ingest the particles as food any more than they would pieces of iron. If a fish should accidentally swallow a particle, it would leave the body of the fish by natural elimination. Any material passing into its system through the gills would not affect the flesh of a fish, and scientists agree that no harmful amount would remain. Thus eating fish caught in the area would not be a health hazard.

(13) QUESTION:

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(13) QUESTION: Was the accident in Spain a violation of the test ban treaty, as the Soviet Union has charged?

ANSWER: Of course not. This is far-fetched, even for a Soviet propagandist. The test ban treaty prohibits "any nuclear weapon test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion..." Since no nuclear explosion occurred in the Palomares incident, there was no treaty violation.

(14) QUESTION: What about Soviet charges that the accident in Spain violated the 1958 "open sea convention," prohibiting contamination of the oceans with radioactive materials?

ANSWER: Again, propaganda without foundation. Not only was there no contamination of the ocean, as I have already pointed out (Question No. 9), but that treaty bears no relation at all to the crash. The article of the treaty from which the Soviets quoted out of context deals with (a) "the dumping of radioactive waste" and (b) cooperation with international organizations to prevent pollution.

(15) QUESTION: Why do you endanger people by carrying nuclear weapons around in aircraft?

ANSWER: No one has been endangered, and the U. S. precautions and safeguards against an accidental explosion have proven completely effective. Our flights are a function of the United States nuclear deterrent force, strongest in the world, which has helped prevent nuclear war or world war for the past 20 years.

The U. S. force is constantly in readiness to protect our own people and all the people in countries allied with us. The main essential in preventing war is to be prepared, so U. S. missiles, planes, submarines, guns and men are ever ready. The result is that aggression can be deterred and war prevented in cases such as the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, when the Soviet Union tried to sneak nuclear missiles into Cuba as an aggressive threat to the U. S. American superior strength, preparedness, resolve and restraint forced the Soviets to withdraw their missiles.

(16) QUESTION: Do you overfly my country with nuclear weapons?

ANSWER: For

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ANSWER: For reasons of military security I cannot comment on this question. However, the people of all countries can be assured that the U. S. will never relax its concern with nuclear safety.

(17) QUESTION: Doesn't flying around with nuclear weapons increase the chance of war by accident or misunderstanding?

ANSWER: Quite the contrary. As I have explained (Question No. 15), airborne nuclear weapons are an important part of the U. S. nuclear war-preventive deterrent. In addition to its successful program to avoid accidental nuclear explosions, the U. S. is the pioneer and foremost practitioner of devices and procedures to prevent outbreak of war by misunderstanding.

President Johnson disclosed some specifics in September 1964:

"We have worked consistently to bring nuclear weapons under careful control and to lessen the danger of nuclear conflicts, and this policy has been the policy of the United States of America for 19 years now, under both Democratic and Republican administrations....The release of nuclear weapons would come by Presidential decision alone. Complex codes and electronic devices prevent any unauthorized action. Every further step along the way from decision to destruction is governed by the two-man rule. Two or more men must act independently and must decide the order has been given. An elaborate system of checks and counterchecks, procedural and mechanical, guard against any unauthorized nuclear bursts. In addition, since 1961 we have placed permissive-action links on several of our weapons. These are electromechanical locks which must be opened by secret combination before action at all is possible, and we are extending this system."

One of the checks to which the President referred is the well-known command control system, through which U. S. aircraft cannot proceed beyond a certain point without a positive, unmistakable command originating at the highest level of government. This "fail-safe" system has worked without flaw since its inception over a decade ago. Similar systems keep all U. S. nuclear deterrent systems under constant control -- including land-based and submarine-based long-range missiles. In addition to its own independent measures, the U. S. suggested and urged adoption of one quick method to reduce the risk of international misunderstandings in crises -- the "hot line" -- a constantly manned direct teletype link which was installed between Washington and Moscow in 1963.

(18) QUESTION

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(18) QUESTION: Do the Soviets overfly other countries with nuclear weapons?

ANSWER: You should ask them. They have given us no information about the safety features of their weapons.

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DRAFT 8/10/66

2

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 88-141
By inf NARA, Date 4-12-89

Question 1: The President was first notified that an accident involving nuclear weapons had taken place over Spain at 7:05 AM, Monday, January 17, 1966. He was informed by means of a regular report which he received every day at this hour. We do not know where he was at the time he read the report, but most likely, he was in the Mansion.

Question 2: The text of the message first conveyed to him was as follows:

"A B-52 and a KC-135 Tanker collided while conducting a refueling operation 180 miles from Gibraltar. The B-52 crashed on the shore in Spain and the Tanker went down in the sea. Four survivors have been picked up and three additional life rafts have been sighted. The B-52 was carrying four Mark 28 thermonuclear weapons. The 16th Nuclear Disaster team has been dispatched to the area."

We do not know what his immediate response was.

The President was personally informed of subsequent developments several times during Monday, and received a special report on the incident at 9 PM that night. He was kept

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informed in writing every morning at 7 AM and, for the first few days, each evening at 9 PM. One of the reports included a map of the area and current information of the location of the accident, the remains of the planes, and the location of the weapons.

Question 3: We do not know whether the President issued any personal orders or directives relating to the incident. It is most likely that he talked to both Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara by telephone and in person, but our records do not indicate when he did so.

Question 4: Our records do not reflect the President's order covering the information policy in effect during the first weeks of the incident. One of the factors in deciding on what information should be made public was the attitude of the Spanish Government, ^{which} ~~and~~ it was accutely sensitive to any public state-made
ments/about the accident and the presence of nuclear weapons.

The Department of Defense Public Information Office would have more details about the press handling of the accident.

Question 5: Our records do not contain any information as to the President's reaction when he was informed that the bomb had been located, or when it was recovered.

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The Washington Post

444 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

TEL: HA 1-1221 HA 1-1234

August 3, 1966

FLORA LEWIS
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Bill Moyers
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moyers:

I have been trying to reach you for some time to ask for a little information I need in connection with a book I am doing about the incident involving an Air Force crash and successful hunt for a missing H bomb off Spain.

I am trying to reconstruct the story as far as possible. I understand that the President did give the incident some personal attention and I would not like to leave him out of the story.

The following questions are the ones I would like to ask the White House. I do not expect to be able to get to Washington again in the near future and would therefore be very grateful if you could either send the answers or call me at your convenience, because I doubt that the whole thing would take more than a few minutes on the phone.

Questions: 1. At what time was the President first notified that an accident involving nuclear weapons had taken place over Spain? Who informed him? Where was he at the time?

2. Is the text of the first message available? Is his response available? To what extent was the President personally informed of subsequent developments relating to the incident? Any descriptive or special details available?

3. Did the President issue any personal orders or directives relating to the incident? If so, any details available?

4. I have heard a report that the President was the person who ordered a relaxation of the very restrictive information policy in effect during the first six weeks of the incident after he had seen a factual series of articles about it in the Washington Post making clear that a good many false rumors had achieved wide currency

The Washington Post

444 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

TEL: HA 1-1221 HA 1-1234

FLORA LEWIS
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Bill Moyers
August 3, 1966
Page 2

in the absence of information. Is that correct? Any details available?

5. Any descriptive, colorful or quotable details available of the moment when the President was informed that the missing bomb had been located? Of the moment when the President was informed that the missing bomb had been recovered?

As you will see from these questions, what I am primarily looking for is some color that will help me recreate the reality and the sense of urgency and importance of the accident.

I will very much appreciate any help you can give me.

Sincerely,

Flora Lewis

MEMORANDUM

3

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Thursday, March 17, 1966
7:15 P.M.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Report on Nuclear Weapon in Spain

Because of inaccurate press reports, our Embassy in Madrid will release tonight the following statement:

"The undersea vessel, Alvin, made contact on March 16th with an object lying in 2,500 feet of water approximately five miles off shore near Palomares.

"Military experts have evaluated underwater photographs taken of the object and believe it to be the missing nuclear weapon. Actions are being taken to recover the device.

"The photographs show a parachute attached to an object which is similar in size and shape to the missing nuclear weapon. The parachute, however, is covering part of the object preventing positive identification. Experts who have examined the photographs indicate that the casing appears to be intact, thereby precluding any radioactive contamination in the water."

White House Situation Room

J. Murray

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NIJ 88-141
By sig NARA, Date 4-12-89

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1966

To Bill Moyers

Bill:

We will be receiving shortly the latest report from our people in Spain.

Brom
Bromley Smith

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TO RUETCRBSECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 857
INFO RUFDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 48
RUFDN/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 84
RUFDN/POAD CINCEUR IMMEDIATE UNN
STATE GRNC
BT

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ JANUARY 19

REF EMBTEL 855

DEPT PASS DOD AND HQ SAC OMAHA

1. HAVE JUST LEARNED LOCAL UPI CORRESPONDENT FILED STORY TODAY ON B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT TO EFFECT THREE ATOM BOMS RECOVERED FROM WRECKAGE BUT ONE STILL MISSING AND THAT HUNDREDS OF US TROOPS COMBING COUNTRYSIDE WITH GEIGER COUNTERS.

2. SINCE FOREGOING MAY LEAD TO ESCALATION OF MEDIA TREATMENT AND RAPID CHANGE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST WASHINGTON CLEARANCE SOONEST OF DRAFT STATEMENT PARA 3 REFTEL FOR RELEASE AT AMBASSADORS DISCRETION AND SUBJECT TO FINAL CLEARANCE FROM GOS.

GP-3
DUKE
BT

~~SECRET~~

NNNN

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

EHA116
OO RUEHEX
DE RUEHCR 14885 0191820
ZNY SSSSS
O 191756Z

SECRET

RECEIVED
WHCA

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHEX/WHITE HOUSE ATTN MR BUNDY
RUEHJS/DOD

1966 JAN 19 18 29

RUCSBRB/HQ SAC OMAHA

O 191630Z JAN 66

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 855

INFO RUFHBN/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 46

RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 82

RUFHPA/POLAD CINCEUR IMMEDIATE UNN

STATE GRNC

BT

~~SECRET~~ JANUARY 19

DECLASSIFIED

Authority FRS 64-68, vol. 12, #190

By JC NARA, Date 10-25-04

REF DEPTTEL 819

DEPT PASY DOD AND HQ SAC OMAHA

1. AS ANTICIPATED DEPTTEL SPANISH ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO ANY FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT. FONOFF (IN NAME MINISTERS FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AIR AND NAVY WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN CONFERENCE AT FONOFF WHEN EMBASSY TOOK UP CONSULTATION PURSUANT REFTTEL) POINTED OUT TODAY STORY DYING IN SPANISH PRESS AND LOCAL INTEREST SUBSIDING. FONOFF EVEN REQUESTED THAT ANY EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE ON OUR PART FOR SPANISH HELP IN RESCUE AND SEARCH OPERATIONS NOT RPT NOT BE MADE PUBLICLY.

PAGE TWO RUFHBN 003LL ~~SECRET~~

2. HOWEVER, WHEN INFORMED STORY MAY ASSUME ADDED DIMENSIONS ELSEWHERE IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS, FONOFF AGREED IT COULD CONCEIVABLY LATER BECOME DESIRABLE TO RESTRAIN SPECULATION WITH ANOTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT. IN THIS SPIRIT, FONOFF GAVE TENTATIVE APPROVAL TO DRAFT QUOTED BELOW ON CONDITION FINAL GOS CLEARANCE BE OBTAINED IF US BELIEVED CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED FURTHER STATEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT GIVEN TENTATIVE AND CONDITIONAL CLEARANCE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

QUOTE. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN ANGLIER BIDDLE DUKE TODAY EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE WHOLEHEARTED ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES AND CIVILIANS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOLLOWING THE MID-AIR COLLISION OF TWO AMERICAN MILITARY PLANES ON MONDAY.

THE COLLISION INVOLVED A B-52 INTER-CONTINENTAL BOMBER AND A KC-135 JET TANKER ENGAGED IN A ROUTINE HIGH ALTITUDE REFUELING OPERATION. FOUR AIRMEN WERE RESCUED, BUT SEVEN LOST THEIR LIVES.

PAGE THREE RUFHON 003LL ~~SECRET~~

IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY U.S. AIR FORCE INVESTIGATORS THAT A SMALL EXPLOSION OF CONVENTIONAL MATERIALS HAD OCCURRED ON THE GROUND AS A SEQUEL TO THE CRASH. THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED WHEN WRECKAGE FELL NEAR THE TINY VILLAGE OF PALOMARES, NEAR VERA, CLOSE TO THE SPOT WHERE THE DAMAGED BUT VIRTUALLY INTACT TAIL ASSEMBLY OF THE B-52 BOMBER WAS FOUND. NO CASUALTIES AMONG INHABITANTS OF THE AREA HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

RADIATION MONITORING TEAMS ARE OPERATING IN THE AREA AND WILL REMAIN TO COMPLETE THEIR SURVEY AND CONFIRM THE SAFETY OF THE SPOT.

AN INTENSIVE SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATION ON LAND AND OFF THE COAST IN THE ACCIDENT AREA IS BEING CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY SPANISH AND AMERICAN FORCES. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH AND TO PRECLUDE A SIMILAR ACCIDENT, IT IS DESIRED TO RECOVER ALL PIECES OF THE WRECKAGE WHICH WILL LATER BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY AIR FORCE EXPERTS.

MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY DONOVAN, CHIEF OF THE JOINT U.S. MILITARY GROUP (JUSMG) AND MAJOR GENERAL DELMAR E. WILSON, COMMANDER SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE, JOINED THE AMBASSADOR IN PRAISING THE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY SPANIARDS. THEY COMMENDED THE SPANISH NAVY FOR IMMEDIATELY LOCATING AND DIRECTING THE RESCUE OF THREE AIRMEN WHO PARACHUTED INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

PAGE FOUR RUFHON 003LL ~~SECRET~~

THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALS ALSO VOICED GRATIFICATION FOR THE USE OF SPANISH MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE ACCIDENT AREA, THE CLOSE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE GUARDIA CIVIL, AND THE AID OF THE SPANISH AIR FORCE. UNQUOTE.

4. SPANISH OBJECTED STRONGLY TO MORE FORTHRIGHT TREATMENT OF RADIATION CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL DRAFT, AND AMBASSADOR, ON ADVICE CHIEF JUSMG WHO JUST RETURNED FROM SCENE OF ACCIDENT, BELIEVES WORDING AS GIVEN ABOVE ADEQUATE. U.S. OFFICIALS HERE WOULD DECLINE FURTHER COMMENT ON SUBJECT IF QUESTIONED BY PRESS.

5. MUST EMPHASIZE GOS VERY ANXIOUS THAT NO FURTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT BE MADE UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARE LIKELY TO RELENT ONLY IN FACE CLEAR AND URGENT NECESSITY.

GP-3
DUKE
BT

NNNN

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

5
Tuesday, January 18, 1966
9:05 P.M. EST

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Information has been received that two of the nuclear devices which were carried on the B-52 which crashed in Southern Spain yesterday experienced a low order high explosive detonation. Although no nuclear reaction would result, such a detonation could cause a radiation hazard. However, if the detonation was minimal it is possible that no radiation hazard would occur.

There are sufficient qualified technical personnel now on the scene to properly take care of any situation which may exist in relation to these two weapons. Included among the personnel are Major General Wilson, Commander of the 16th Air Force (SAC) and Major General Beck for SAC headquarters.

Based on minimal information received, it is not possible to accurately estimate the situation. However, it is not believed that there is any basis for undue concern over the low order detonation of the two weapons.

White House Situation Room

Benjamin Rosen
Briefing Officer

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority FRV 64-68 vol. 12, 4/89

By jc NARA, Date 10.25.04

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~ Atomic Energy Act 1954

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
19 JANUARY 1966, 4:30 PM EST

SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT IN SOUTHEASTERN SPAIN

The following information is furnished on the recovery and search operations for the weapons from the B-52/KC-135 crash in southeastern Spain.

One weapon was located 200 yards from the shoreline and recovered intact. The weapon did not break up, and there are no radiation effects in the area.

A second weapon was located in a vegetable garden in Pueblo Palamares approximately two miles northwest of the first. The weapon was broken up to the extent that radiation from fragments of plutonium in the weapon has been monitored in the immediate area. Fragments are being removed and standard decontamination practices are underway. The vegetables in the garden are being bought and destroyed.

The third weapon was located in a rocky uninhabited area about one mile west of Pueblo Palamares. The weapon is in a similar condition to the second weapon.

All areas where weapons or components are located are under guard.

The remaining weapon (fourth) is still unaccounted for and the search for it is continuing.

The crash site area is located in a very sparsely populated, remote area of Spain.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ

88-215

Rv up

NARA. Date 1-29-91

DDO

JH4

ADD0

fwl

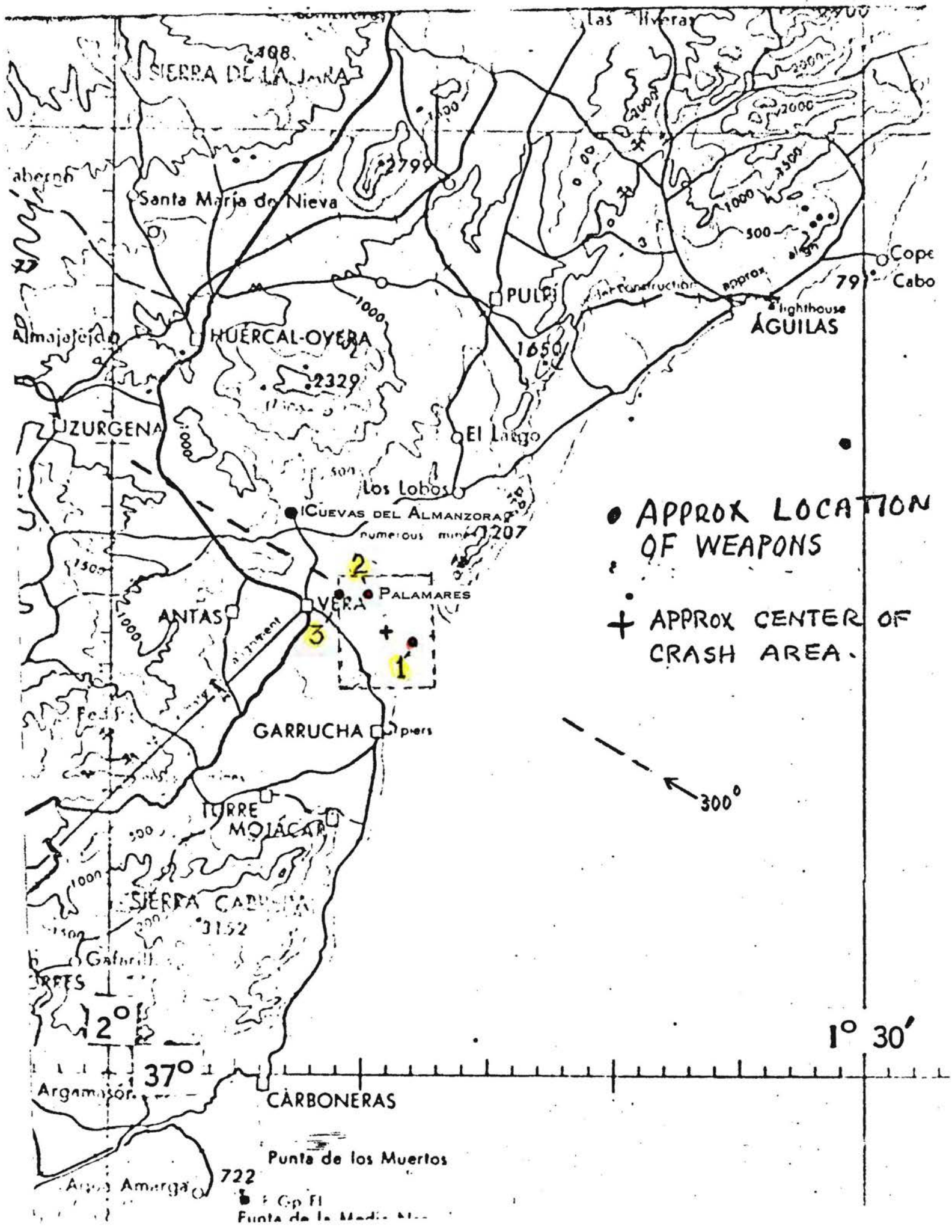
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ad2

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~ Atomic Energy Act 1954

Prepared and released
by the NMCC



● APPROX LOCATION OF WEAPONS

+ APPROX CENTER OF CRASH AREA.

300°

1° 30'

37°

CARBONERAS

Punta de los Muertos

722

• Gp Fl
Fuente de la Media N...

7
S

LONDON NEWSPAPERS

First two stories

Daily Sketch, Jan 18, 66 - Headline "A-bomber crash mystery"

"Two U.S. Air Force jets crashed while refueling near the Mediterranean coast of Spain yesterday - and immediately security men clamped down on all information.

"Some reports said that one of the planes a B-52 bomber, was carrying nuclear weapons - but they were not primed.

"Four of the bombers crew parachuted to safety near Almeria, Southeast Spain. But 7 others are missing, feared dead.

"The other plane was a huge jet tanker based at Moron near Seville.

"School children going to school said they heard a loud explosion overhead and then saw smoke." (Circulation about 1 million)

Daily Mirror - circulation 5 million

Headline - Crash riddle "A-bomb Plans

"A big air-sea search for wreckage was going on last night after 2 American Air Force planes collided in the air. One was said to have been carrying a nuclear bomb.

crew

"Five of the two planes 11/crew died. Two more are missing.

"4 others parachuted to safety in the sea after the crash ~~crashed~~ over Spain's southeast coast.

"The planes were a B-52 bomber and giant KC-135 tanker which was refueling it.

"In dark palck type: In Washington Pentagon officials refused to say whether the B-52 had a nuclear bomb on board. But the bomb would have been "crash proof" and would not have exploded.

19 Jan - Daily Sketch

"An American service chief led a force of more than 100 technicians in a search for the wreckage of a B-52 bomber believed to have been carrying nuclear bombs which collided with the tanker plane over the Spanish southeast coast on Monday."

There were 2 AP releases - only AP reference

Headquarters of the 16th Air Force near Madrid which directs such refueling flights in this region would neither confirm nor deny the multi-jet carried nuclear bombs."

~~SECRET~~

copy sent Johnson

8

18 January 1966

SANITIZED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ 05-19
By *iol*, NARA, Date *11-13-06*

TO: Secretary of Defense
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)
Intelligence Support Indications Center
National Military Command Center
Headquarters, U. S. Air Force
Defense Atomic Support Agency

*Also please
relay to
WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION
ROOM*

SUBJECT: Situation Report, B-52/KC-135 Accident, 17 January 1966

1. Information has been received that two of the four [REDACTED] weapons involved in the B-52/KC-135 accident in Spain experienced a "low order detonation". [REDACTED]

6.2 (a)

One weapon is still missing.

2. The "low order detonation" could involve the burning or detonation of a very minor amount of HE or any amount up to the full [REDACTED]. Although no nuclear reaction would result, such a detonation could involve local plutonium scattering with related radiation hazard. It is also possible that there was no Pu scattering if the detonation was minimal.

6.2 (a)

3. It is believed that there are sufficient qualified personnel on the scene to properly take care of any situation which may exist in relation to these two weapons. The following personnel have been dispatched and should be at the scene:

A Directorate of Nuclear Safety (AF) Team of 4 people accompanied by 2 individuals from Los Alamos (1 radiation expert and 1 HE expert), 1 from Sandia Corporation, 1 from Albuquerque Operations Office (AEC), and 1 from Field Command, DASA.

1 Disaster Control Team from 16th AF (SAC) headed by Major General Wilson, the commander.

1 Disaster Control Team from Hq, SAC headed by Major General Beck.

6 Explosive Ordnance Disposal officers/technicians were dispatched by USAFE 17 Jan 66.

RESTRICTED DATA-ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954

AS AMENDED

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING:

DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

~~SECRET~~

2

4. Based on the minimal information received, it is impossible to estimate accurately the situation. It is emphasized that definitive information can only be provided by qualified personnel at the scene. However, it is not believed that there is any basis for undue concern over the low order detonation of the two weapons.

5. Information has been received that the AF Director of Nuclear Safety from Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, has reported from the scene that "Impact on populace practically nil."

6. Telephonic information has been received indicating that 300 Air Police have been ordered into the crash area to perform search and security functions. Two hundred Spanish police are reportedly assisting.

7. Clarification on population hazard has been requested from on-site personnel.

Prepared by: ATSD(AE)

~~SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED DATA-ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954,~~
~~AS AMENDED~~

~~SECRET~~

9

B-52/KC-135 MID-AIR COLLISION

B-52: 68th Bomb Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. Crew of seven.

KC-135: 97th Air Refueling Squadron, Blytheville AFB, Ark. Crew of four (910th ARefS, Bergstrom AFB, Tex.).

Mission: Air refueling and Chrome Dome.

Time of Mishap: 0422 EST, 17 January 1966.

Location of Mishap: Approximately two miles inland on southern coast of Spain. (37° 14'N - 01° 49'W)

Crews Recovered: Four (B-52).

Crew Fatalities: Seven (three, B-52; four, KC-135).

Cause of mishap as reported by interrogation of survivors:

At one mile out for refueling, the approach was good with a normal closure rate of six knots. The closure rate suddenly accelerated rapidly and the pilot reduced power; however, the B-52 passed under the tanker and the copilot looked up and back to see the tanker boom. A small explosion was heard aft of the flight deck. Presumably, the boom punctured the fuselage. This was followed by a large explosion and a violent pitch down of the B-52. Severe G-forces hampered ejection by the crew members. Parts of both the B-52 and the KC-135 have been found in the inland crash area.

Security and medical being provided from 16th AF and Spanish resources.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

WORK PAPER

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.6

NLI/RAC 05-20

By: *sl* NARA, Date 2-26-07

~~SECRET~~

200 Spanish constabulary.

300 USAF Air Police.

USAFE EOD team.

USAF (Kirtland AFB) EOD team.

USAF forces have full control of security of recovered weapons.

6.2
(a) Four MX 28 [REDACTED] serial numbers: 45345, 54327, 434379, 330448.

Three of the above weapons have been located and secured by USAF personnel.

The first weapon is approximately 400 yards from the shoreline; the second weapon one mile further in land, the third weapon an additional mile further west from the second weapon. They are located in the general area of the B-52 debris, but indications are that they fell free. The four-weapon package apparently broke up in the air. Starting from the coastline, the first weapon in-land is bent but intact; the second and third weapons in-land are badly damaged. [REDACTED]

6.2
(a) [REDACTED] Pieces of HE are evident. The pilot chute on all three weapons deployed or popped out, perhaps on impact, but the main chutes did not deploy. The fourth weapon has not been located, which suggests the strong possibility it is in the water. The above is reported by the Deputy Commander of 16AF based on information reported over very marginal communications and is, therefore, subject to refinement and clarification. There is evidence of some HE detonation. There is some

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

radiation involved, however, types and intensities are unknown at 16th AF Headquarters due to poor communications with crash site. On scene nuclear safety personnel from Kirtland advise that impact on the populace is nil and that there are sufficient qualified personnel on the scene to take care of any situation related to these weapons.

~~SECRET~~

10

Sunday, January 23, 1966

7:00 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

The stand-down of offensive military operations by Vietnamese and Free World forces in observance of TET came to an end at 5:00 A.M. EST this morning. The cease fire period announced by the Viet Cong is scheduled to continue until noon EST today.

There were 88 cease fire violations by the Viet Cong reported up to the time the holiday period ended. Fifty-six of these were against U.S. forces, 23 against the South Vietnamese and 9 against the Koreans. Total casualties were: 6 US, 4 South Vietnamese and 7 Koreans killed; 17 US, 23 South Vietnamese and 26 Koreans wounded, and 8 Koreans missing. Fifty-nine Viet Cong were killed and two captured.

As offensive ground and air operations are resumed, U.S. forces are participating in four operations of battalion-size or larger. The mission of the largest of these (Operation VAN BUREN), with five U.S., two Korean and two South Vietnamese battalions, is to secure the rice harvest in the valley southwest of Tuy Hoa, approximately 40 miles south of Qui Nhon.

Two other operations, BUCKSKIN and SHORT FUSE, are search and destroy operations 25 and 40 miles north of Saigon respectively. Operation KAMEHAHA is providing road security in Pleiku Province.

At 11:05 A.M. EST today, 15 B-52's will attack a target area 40 miles east-southeast of Saigon reported to contain 3 Viet Cong base camps, a Viet Cong battalion and a regimental command headquarters. An hour and twenty minutes later, 12 more B-52's will attack another Viet Cong troop concentration 45 miles north-northwest of Saigon.

Yesterday, 233 U.S. aircraft attacked military targets in Laos.

SPAIN

The search for the missing weapon from the B-52/KC-135 mid-air collision continues.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 88-141
By inf NARA, Date 4-12-89

White House Situation Room

J. Murray

Briefing Officer

David Usher 7:10 AM

Saturday, January 22, 1966
7:15 AM

~~Secret~~

11

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

There have been 65 Viet Cong initiated incidents since the beginning of the TET cease fire. Thirty eight of these incidents have been directed against US forces; eighteen against South Vietnamese forces and nine against the Korean forces.

Reported casualties for all incidents are 2 US killed and 5 wounded, 7 Koreans killed and 26 wounded and 8 missing, 4 South Vietnamese killed and 16 wounded. Viet Cong casualties are 60 killed and 3 captured.

US aircraft flew 155 sorties over Laos yesterday attacking military targets, storage areas, roads and bridges.

Spain

The search for the fourth nuclear weapon lost in the B-52/KC-135 mid-air collision continues on land. Two US Navy ships have arrived in the area to conduct an offshore search.

Nigeria

The military government in Nigeria announced that the body of Prime Minister Balewa was found yesterday.

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

James H. Dorn

BRIEFING OFFICER

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-141

By *inf* NARA, Date 4-12-89

Dehondal's 7:19 AM

~~SECRET~~

12
Tuesday, January 18, 1966
9:05 P.M. EST

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Information has been received that two of the nuclear devices which were carried on the B-52 which crashed in Southern Spain yesterday experienced a low order high explosive detonation. Although no nuclear reaction would result, such a detonation could cause a radiation hazard. However, if the detonation was minimal it is possible that no radiation hazard would occur.

There are sufficient qualified technical personnel now on the scene to properly take care of any situation which may exist in relation to these two weapons. Included among the personnel are Major General Wilson, Commander of the 16th Air Force (SAC) and Major General Beck for SAC headquarters.

Based on minimal information received, it is not possible to accurately estimate the situation. However, it is not believed that there is any basis for undue concern over the low order detonation of the two weapons.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 88-141

By sig NARA: Date 4-12-89

White House Situation Room

Penner Rosen

Briefing Officer

~~SECRET~~

Dir. White House Office
9:15 PM.

~~SECRET~~

Tuesday, 18 January 1966

7:00 AM

13

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NUJ 88-141

By mg NARA. Date 4-12-87

South Vietnam

Communist guerrilla activity has intensified over wide areas of the country on the eve of the Tet cease-fire. A series of incidents near Saigon during the past two days has resulted in heavy civilian casualties.

The South Vietnamese Army Special Forces camp at Minh Thanh received mortar and small arms fire early yesterday, and an outpost north of the camp was probed. Elements of the Viet Cong attacking units, estimated to be five companies, were also reported on the nearby airstrip. Air strikes were called for, and a reaction force was dispatched to the area. So far, 14 defenders have been killed and 27 wounded.

Two South Vietnamese were killed and 21 wounded when a command post in Quang Ngai city received 20 to 25 rounds of mortar fire and light ground probing attack last night. Nine rounds of the mortar fire landed in an orphanage compound during the attack killing 3 adult civilians and wounding 5 children. A nearby observation post manned by a Regional Force company of about 100 personnel was overrun. Casualties for this action have not yet been determined.

In Thua Thien Province, northern South Vietnam, a special forces patrol base manned by 53 South Vietnamese and 2 US Special Forces, was attacked for ten hours yesterday. Thirty air sorties were flown in support of the camp. Four South Vietnamese were killed and 6 wounded. Viet Cong casualties are not known. In the same province, 11 Viet Cong were killed in a one-day combined US/South Vietnamese search and destroy operation.

An outpost 50 miles west of Saigon was overrun early yesterday. Seven hours later a South Vietnamese reaction force had reached the camp and reported 13 Vietnamese killed, 8 wounded and 7 missing. They also reported that 9 civilians had been killed and 5 wounded. A large number of South Vietnamese youths were captured by the Viet Cong.

Twenty one operations of battalion size or larger are in progress at the present time. US forces are participating in seven of these operations.

A combined operation involving 2 US Marine and 4 South Vietnamese battalions, which began on January 9 south of Danang, was terminated yesterday. Viet Cong casualties were 34 killed, 29 captured and 221 suspects detained. US casualties were 4 killed and 51 wounded.

Three battalions of the US 1st Infantry Division continue Operation Buckskin 20 miles northwest of Saigon. Casualties to date are 13 US killed and 95 wounded, 2 South Vietnamese killed, 11 wounded and 1 missing, and 48

PRESERVATION COPY

7:05 AM

~~SECRET~~

Viet Cong killed and 3 captured.

Spain

Four survivors of the B-52/KC-135 collision over Spain yesterday have been recovered and are reported to be in good condition. The bodies of the remaining 7 crew members of the 2 planes have been reported recovered. The nose and tail section of the B-52 have been identified as part of the wreckage on land. The fuselage section has not been located. One of the 4 thermonuclear weapons has been found intact near the crash scene and is under guard. The remaining 3 are still missing. A disaster control team is on the site. Three Hundred Air Force personnel are proceeding to the scene to assist in search operations.

White House Situation Room

Arthur M. Coffey
Briefing Officer

2 planes have spread debris
around with some contamination.

PRESERVATION COPY

14
Monday, January 17, 1966
9:00 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mid-Air Collision

Search and rescue operations have been curtailed because of darkness, they will continue tomorrow morning.

One of the four weapons has been located, intact, and is being guarded by Spanish and US police. The other three weapons are believed to be in the water.

The area of the crash has been sealed off and turned over to the US Military.

White House Situation Room

Charles Hayden
Briefing Officer

PRESERVATION COPY

Waher's office 2:05 PM

~~TOP SECRET~~
Monday, January 17, 1966

7:05 AM

15
See page 2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

During the past 24 hours the Viet Cong have launched a series of sharp attacks against government installations. A special forces camp in Binh Long Province was mortared and overrun and a nearby village was occupied. Vietnamese casualties were 34 killed, 60 wounded, and a village chief and Vietnamese special forces soldier captured.

The Thu Duc Infantry School, northeast of Saigon, was attacked by an estimated Viet Cong company resulting in one soldier killed and 26 wounded. Thirty Viet Cong were killed.

The Viet Cong attacked a Regional Force outpost approximately 5 miles southwest of Quang Ngai. Friendly losses were 8 killed and 12 wounded. Four Viet Cong were reported killed.

Another Viet Cong force attacked two Regional Force Companies approximately six miles south of Danang, resulting in friendly losses of 9 killed and 12 wounded. Viet Cong losses are not known.

A mine exploded today under a bus about 40 miles west of Saigon, killing 26 Vietnamese civilians and wounding 4.

A US pilot spotted an estimated Viet Cong battalion crossing a river approximately 20 miles west of Saigon. Nineteen aircraft were diverted to strike one force resulting in a reported 7 Viet Cong known killed and an additional 35-45 estimated killed.

Operation Jefferson, a Korean/US/Vietnamese operation 60 miles south of Qui Nhon, has been terminated. Final casualties are 3 US killed and 8 wounded, 29 Koreans killed and 66 wounded, 13 South Vietnamese killed and 18 wounded. Viet Cong casualties were 391 killed and 14 captured.

Dominican Republic

General Palmer is scheduled to depart the Dominican Republic today. He will be relieved as US Commander Dominican Republic by General Robert Linville.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ALJ 88-141 (498)

By JPL/dh NARA, Date 10-25-04

PRESERVATION COPY

Under 7:08 AM

~~TOP SECRET~~

B-52 Crash

A B-52 and a KC-135 Tanker ^{collided} crashed while conducting a refueling operation 180 miles from Gibraltar. The B-52 crashed on the shore in Spain and the Tanker went down in the sea. Four survivors have been picked up and three additional life rafts have been sighted. The B-52 was carrying four Mark 28 thermo-nuclear weapons. The 16th Nuclear Disaster team has been dispatched to the area.

White House Situation Room

Arthur M. Cuffey
Briefing Officer

~~TOP SECRET~~

PRESERVATION COPY

(12)
Monday, January 17, 1966
9:00 PM

16

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mid-Air Collision

Search and rescue operations have been curtailed because of darkness, they will continue tomorrow morning.

One of the four weapons has been located, intact, and is being guarded by Spanish and US police. The other three weapons are believed to be in the water.

The area of the crash has been sealed off and turned over to the US Military.

White House Situation Room

Charles Hayden
Briefing Officer

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

17
S

~~TOP SECRET~~

January 17, 1966

FOR BROMLEY SMITH

Chuck Johnson has phoned over the following information regarding the B-52 crash:

1. Under procedural agreement #14, we have the right in the case of any accident involving aircraft from within Spain or over-flying Spain, to go to the site and conduct rescue, salvage, and decontamination operations within a ring cordoned off by our own forces. Under the agreement, the Spanish will also set up an external ring to keep out unauthorized persons.
2. A General is being flown out from SAC in Omaha to take charge of the operations.
3. A decontamination team is at this moment on its way to the area from Germany.
4. At this moment, it is not quite clear as to the precise location of either aircraft. The area is very remote and uninhabited. Our only information comes from a civil policeman who has telephoned the information that he has found a couple portions of an aircraft -- one section containing two bodies.



Art McCafferty

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 88-216
By ing NARA, Date 10-15-90

~~TOP SECRET~~

17a
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Mr. George called and left the following message:

The agreement under which we have the right to go in and remove the equipment is the Procedural Agreement #14 to the September 26, 1953 Agreements with Spain.

Paragraph #6 --

Accidents occurring U. S. military aircraft

In case of accidents occurring to U. S. military aircraft or to air carriers which operate under contract to the U. S. Government, the Spanish and U. S. authorities will cooperate in the adoption of rescue measures with primary responsibility belonging to the U. S. authorities. Measures to take charge of and remove the damaged aircraft and its technical equipment are the responsibility of the appropriate U. S. authorities. Spanish military and police forces shall have primary responsibility for the external security of such damaged aircraft: However, U. S. military forces, if first on the scene, may assume this responsibility pending the arrival of Spanish military and police forces.

General Beck, SAC General in Charge of Logistics left for Spain.

The EODT (Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team) from Sembach Air Force Base in Germany is in Spain.

176

6

JETS

5

ALMERIA, SPAIN (AP)-TWO AIR FORCE JET PLANES WITH 11 CREWMEN ABOARD CRASHED ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST TODAY AFTER A COLLISION IN THE AIR WHILE REFUELING.

U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS SAID FIVE MEN HAD BEEN RESCUED.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 16TH U.S. AIR FORCE NEAR MADRID SAID THE PLANES WERE A B52 BOMBER FROM A BASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND A KC135 JET TANKER BASED AT MORON, AIRPORT, NEAR SEVILLA, SPAIN.

ONE OF THE TWO PLANES CRASHED ON LAND, THE OTHER INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THE AIR FORCE SAID THE B52 CAME FROM THE 68TH BOMBARDMEN WING AT SEYMOUR-JOHNSON AIR BASE, IN NORTH CAROLINA. THE TANKER WAS FROM THE 910TH AIR REFUELING UNIT AT BERGSTROM, TEX., BUT WAS TEMPORARILY STATIONED IN SPAIN.

THE 16TH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE B52 WAS CARRYING NUCLEAR BOMBS ON THE FLIGHT.

LT9AES 1/17

Military Cables

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL G24				DIST: CJCS-1 NMCC-2 S/DEF-7 ASD/PA-1 AE-1 WHOUSE-3 CNO-2 CSAF-1 FILE-1 (19)PFM	
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	DECLASSIFIED Authority <u>Group 4</u> By <u>WJH</u> , NARA, Date <u>4-30-87</u> DTG 240145Z MAR 66	
PRECEDENCE ACTION PRIORITY INFO ROUTINE				19 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS WHS CNO CSAF AEC STATE ASD(PA) JCS	
FROM: SEC DEF TO: 16TH ADVON SPAIN CTF 65 INFO: { WHITE HOUSE CNO/ZEN CSAF/ZEN AMEMB MADRID JUSMAAG MADRID 16TH AF TORREJON AEC WASH DC SEC STATE CINCSAC COM SIXFLT CINCUSNAVEUR				DATE 23 MONTH MAR YEAR 66 PAGE NO. 1 NO. OF PAGES 3	
CONFIDENTIAL DEE 6826 1. SUBJECT IS OBSERVATION OF WEAPON DURING AND IMMEDIATELY POST RECOVERY. CTF 65 PLANS AS FOLLOWS: GEN WILSON AND AEC REP WILL BE PRESENT AND OBSERVE WHEN WEAPON IS PULLED FROM WATER. IF DETERMINED THAT WEAPON IS ESSENTIALLY INTACT GEN MONTEIL					
DRAFTER	TYPED NAME AND TITLE ROGER RAY COL USA MIC. ASST. TO ATSD(AE)		PHONE 75161	SIGNATURE WJ Howard TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE W. J. HOWARD ASST TO SEC DEF (AE)	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL				REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GP 4

FROM:

SEC DEF

OR OTHER GOS OFFICIAL WILL BE INVITED ON BOARD TO VIEW WEAPON IN CASKET.

2. THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES CONCURRENCE ABOVE PLAN AND AUTHORITY FOR NON-US TO VIEW INTACT SHAPE. WOULD BE USEFUL IF SPANISH ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIAL COULD BE INCLUDED. OFFICIAL PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF GOS OFFICIALS VIEWING RECOVERED WEAPON CONSIDERED IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE. IN ANY EVENT DETAILED OFFICIAL PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF RETRIEVAL CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL.
3. IN EVENT WEAPON NOT INTACT, DETAILS OF CONDITION SHOULD BE REPORTED WASHINGTON ASAP AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW.
4. TO ASSURE SECURITY IN THE EVENT OF NON-INTACT RECOVERY NO RPT NO PRESS OR NON-US OBSERVATION OF ACTUAL RECOVERY IS AUTHORIZED. HOWEVER, ASSUMING

6826

SYMBOL

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3

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INITIALS

ML

JOINT MESSAGEFORM-CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GP 4

FROM:

INTACT RECOVERY RECOMMEND IF
FEASIBLE THAT PRESS ~~INCLUDING~~
~~PHOTOGRAPHERS~~ BE PERMITTED
ACCESS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE
AFTER RECOVERY COMPLETE.
THIS CONSTITUTES AUTHORITY FOR
PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY OF INTACT
SHAPE. IT IS IMPORTANT
NO ASSOCIATION OF MARK
NUMBER WITH SHAPE BE
REVEALED. GP 4.

ML

6826

SYMBOL

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3

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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INITIALS

ML

Cydo Johnson

Adj Sec Def
CISS
DJS
J-30

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

17 MAR 1102Z
RECEIVED
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH

20

SMB F098V DZU116VV XDA272VANA845

OO RUEAHQ

DE RUTQBN 1A 8768845

ZNY SSSSS

O 170827Z MAR 66

FM T6ADVON SPAIN

TO RUCSC/SAC

RUEAHQ/CSAF

BT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *Group 4*

By *WJ*

NARA, Date *4-30-87*

ADVANCE COPY
AFIN *71560* DATE *4-30-87*

~~SECRET~~ T/NOFORN/C-22491 MAR 66. SAC FOR RYAN AND CSAF FOR
SWANCUTT, AFXOPF, FROM WILSON. UPON RECEIVING CTF-66 SITUATION
REPORT 79 ON MORNING OF 16 MARCH, I DISPATCHED MR. GRIFFITH OF AEC
AND TWO HIGHLY QUALIFIED EOD NCOS TO CTF-66. THE LATER HAVE HAD A
MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH THE MK 28 AND CLIP-IN RACK.
PHOTOS OF THE WAPONS AND CLIP-IN RACKS RECOVERED ON LAND PLUS
TECHNICAL ORDERS ACCOMPANIED THE TEAM. THEY FIRST PROCEEDED TO THE
FORT SNELLING WHICH IS A L.S.D. SUPPORTING THE SUBMERSIBLES, AND
TALKED TO THE CIVILIAN CREW OF THE ALVIN THAT HAD MADE THE INITIAL
OBSERVATION DESCRIBED IN SITREP 79. AFTER THE ALVIN CREW SAW THE

PAGE 2 RUTQBN 1A ~~SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

PHOTOS IN POSSESSION OF MY TEAM, THEY WERE ENTHUSIASTIC THAT THEY HAD SEEN THE MISSING WEAPON. THEY REMARKED QUOTE THATS IT UPQUOTE. MY TEAM CLOSELY EXAMINED THE ELEVEN UNDERWATER TV PICTURES TAKEN BY CTF-65 AND WERE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE OBJECT HAD PART OF THE CLIP-IN RACK ATTACHED, THE CHUTE WAS A SOLID PANEL TYPE, AND THAT APPEARED TO BE THE NOSE SECTION HAD FAIRLY SMOOTH CONTOUR LINES AND INTACT. PHOTOS SHOWED SEVERAL SHROUD LINES AND PANELS OF THE CHUTE LYING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE OBJECT. PARACHUTE APPEARS TO BE ALMOST COMPLETELY WRAPPED AROUND THE OBJECT. IN ONE PHOTO A LIFT LUG APPEARS TO BE RECOGNIZABLE AND IN ONE PHOTO THE METAL SHROUD LINE ATTACHMENT RING OF THE PARACHUTE APPEARS TO BE VISIBLE. AFTER CONCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH PERSONNEL ON THE FORT SNELLING, THEY PROCEEDED TO THE FLAGSHIP OF CTF-65. THE TEAM BRIEFED THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER AND STAFF CONCERNING THEIR OPINIONS ON POINTS OF SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE TV PHOTOS AND THE USAF PHOTOS OF THE WEAPONS THAT HAD IMPACTED ON LAND. IT IS THE OPINION OF MY TEAM THAT THEY HAD DIFFICULTIES IN CONVINCING CTF-65 OF SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO SETS OF PHOTOGRAPHS. OFFERS BY MY EOD TEAM TO ASSIST IN RECOVERY OPERATIONS AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MET WITH COOL RECEPTION. EXPECT TO RECEIVE COPIES OF TV PHOTOS MORNING OF 17 MARCH FOR FURTHER

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

PAGE 3 RUTQBN ~~1A-SECRET~~

ANALYSIS HERE. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED BY HIGH PRIORITY MESSAGE AS
NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARISE. INSTRUCTIONS FROM EMBASSY TO ADMIRAL GUEST
AND MYSELF DIRECT THAT POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AND RECOVERY OF
MISSING WEAPON WILL BE HANDLED IN UTMOST SECRECY. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
WILL ONLY BE MADE BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF EMBASSY AND
GOS OFFICIALS. GP-4.

BT

NNNN

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~~SECRET~~

00 RUEK9A
DE RUTPRD 071 0750153
ZNY CCCCC
O 160150Z MAR 66
FM CTF SIX FIVE
TO RUECW/CNO
INFO RUFLC/USSCINCEUR
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCC CWO

181400-07 29Z

21

RUCKHC/CINCLANTFLT
RUTKRC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUTQBN/16AF TORREAJON
RUTQBN/16AF ADVON SPAIN
RUTHSH/ALUSSNA MADRID
RUTKC/COMNAVACTS
RUCKKM/COMINLANTT
RUFRRN/COMFAIRMED
RUTKCF/TF SIX FIVE
RUECD/CHNAVMAT
RUECD/BUSSHIPS

RUECD/ONR
RUECM/BUWEPs
RUECD/SPECPROJOFF
RUECYH/NAVOCEEANO
RUEKK/NOOTS PASADENA
RUEKDA/JCS
RUCSCR/CINCSAC
BT

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-215

By 110 NARA, Date 1-29-91


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
AIRCRAFT SALVOPS MED (U)
SITREP SEVENTY-NINE

1. AT 151100Z ALVIN LOCATED AN OBJECT WITH ATTACHED GRAYISH PARACHUTE AT LAT 37-11.3/5N LONG 01-41.1/7W (GRID C-4). OBJECT LIES ON APPROX 70/7 DEGREE SLOPE AT DEPTH OF 2550/2 FT NEAR EDGE OF A GULLY APT 20/2 FT DEEP. TERRAIN EXTREMELY RUGGED WITH SLOPE TO SOUTH TO EST 3600/9 FT DEPTH. CHUTE IS ENTANGLED WITH OBJECT COVERING MOST OF IT. PHOTOGRAPHS DO NOT INDICATE FEATURES PERMITTING A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF OBJECT OR A JUDGMENT OF PARACHUTE SIZE.
2. AT 1744Z ALVIN AND ALUMINAUT EFFECTED FIRST RENDEZVOUS IN DEEP

PAGE TWO RUTPRD 071 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- INNER SPACE. AT 1600Z ALUMINAUT SUBMERGED USING MUTUAL RANGING ON SONAR. ALUMINAUT SIGHTED ALVIN AT 1714Z DEPTH 25-2700/6 FT. AT 1744Z ALUMINAUT TOOK POSITION 25 YDS ASTERN OF ALVIN. THEREAFTER ALVIN ASCENDED AND SURFACED. ALUMINAUT HOLDING POSITION ON 70/7 DEGREE SLOPE USING MINIMUM POWER. MIZAR MOVED OVERHEAD ON SURFACE AND USING UNDERWATER TRACKING EQUIPT ON TRANSPONDER (MOUNTED ON ALUMINAUT) FIXED ALUMINAUTS POSIT USING DECCA. MIZAR MAINTAINING CONTACT ON ALUMINAUT ON SLOPE AND RELATIVE PLOT OF CONTACT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. MIZAR PREPARING TRANSPONDER FOR POSITIONING NEAR CONTACT. PETREL WILL PLANT DAN BUOY WITH ANCHOR AND TRANSPONDER AT A POSITION APPROX 500/5 YDS TO SW OF ALUMINAUT FOR FUTURE SURFACE REFERENCE BUOY.
3. INTEND TO HOLD ALUMINAUT NEAR CONTACT UNTIL ALVIN READY FOR NEXT DIVE TO NAR AT WHICH TIME WILL ATTEMPT TO ATTACH A LINE TO PARACHUTE SHROUDS TO MAINTAIN A CONTIOUS CONZMCT WITH OBJECT/CHUTE. WILL PROCEED AS SLOWLY AND DELIKLERATELY AS POSSIBLE WHILE FURTYF YRUDYING AND EVALUATING BBWOGAPHS WBNITNTACTSUCESSIXLITY. HMCUEMORBJ IF WEATHER OR ICJICATIONIF MJECT V. MENRYNG TO UROBO DTPN SLOPE OCCURS, MAY HAVE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RETAIN CONTACT.
 4. EMPLOYING MIZAR, PRIVATEER, PETREL AS PRIMARY RECOVERY SUPPORT CEESEKLS WITH ABILITY AND NOTABLE ON PERIMETER AND WEUFWARD SECURITY

PAGE THREE RUTPRD 071 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PATRBS. ALL OTHER SHUZZ BUSINE X AS USUAL.
BT

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR CL JNICATION CENTER			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL				DIST: CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 NMCC-2 SECDEF-7 DASA-1			
TYPE MSG				ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-9 AE-1 WHITE HOUSE-3 STATE-1			
BOOK				CNO-2 CSAF-1 ANMCC/NEACP/NECPA FILE-1(49)CWS			
MULTI				22			
SINGLE							
PRECEDENCE							
ACTION				DTG 122033Z FEB 66			
INFO							
<p>FROM: SECDEF DECLASSIFIED</p> <p>TO: SAC Authority <u>Brang 4</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 300px;">By <u>sig</u>, NARA, Date <u>4-30-87</u></p> <p>INFO: CINCEUR</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">16TH AF</p>							
<p>CONFIDENTIAL DEF 3892 From OASD(PA) sgd Sylvester</p> <p>For your information, following is text of approved joint State-DoD statement forwarded to Madrid by State today for simultaneous release by Embassy and 16th AF, subject to coordination with Government of Spain.</p> <p>TEXT FOLLOWS:</p> <p>"Search is being pressed off the Spanish Coast for the recovery of material carried by the two planes involved in the recent air collision and for fragments of wreckage which might furnish clues to the cause of the accident. Included aboard the B-52 which collided with the KC-135 tanker were several unarmed nuclear weapons, one of which has not yet been recovered.</p> <p>"When this search and investigation have been concluded,</p>							
<p style="text-align: right;">SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Distribution:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ASD(ISA)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ATSD/AE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JCS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DASA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CSUSAF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CNO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OASD(PA)</p>							
ZFF-3							
TYPED NAME AND TITLE				PHONE			
Orville S. Splitt Special Assistant				79312			
SIGNATURE				RELEASER			
				TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE			
Arthur Sylvester				Assistant Secretary of Defense (PA)			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION				REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS			
CONFIDENTIAL							

JOINT MESSAGEFORM-CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM:

SECDEF

further announcement will be made of the results.

"The impact of the weapons on land caused rupture of weapons cases, which resulted in scattering of a small amount of plutonium (PU 239) and uranium (U 235) in the immediate vicinity of the points of impact. There was no nuclear explosion.

"Built-in safeguards perfected through years of extensive safety testing, have allowed the U. S. to handle, store and transport nuclear weapons for more than two decades without a nuclear detonation. Thorough safety rules and practices also have been developed for dealing with any weapon accident which might result in the spilling of nuclear materials.

"Radiological surveys of the Palomares area and its human and animal populations have included detailed laboratory studies by leading Spanish and U. S. scientists. They have obtained no evidence of a health hazard. These experts say there is no hazard from eating vegetables marketed from this area, from eating the meat or fish or drinking the milk of animals.

"Steps have been taken to insure that the affected areas are thoroughly cleaned up, and some soil and vegetation are being removed.

3892

"These measures are part of a comprehensive program to

SYMBOL

OASD(PA)

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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INITIALS

JOINT MESSAGEFORM-CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM:

SECDEF

eliminate the chance of hazard, to set at rest unfounded fears,
and thus to restore normal life and livelihood to the people of
Palomares."

GP-4

W/INCC' MEVCS 8' WEGBV
WES441522 WLO 10-

ENL(S)
W. CCN
002

1 15 35 33.00

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SYMBOL

OASD(PA)

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INITIALS

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

71067

23

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

F730 U JCSQQQXWY R-2

127 0529Z

00 RUEKDA

ZNY SSSSS ZOV RUEAHQ

READD WH/ST

T OSD

OTTS JAW RUWMFNA 1655 0270040-SSSS-- RUEBHQA.

ZNY SSSSS

O 270035Z

FM DIR NUCLEAR SAFETY KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

TO RUTQBN/16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

INFO RUEBHQA/OSD

RUEBHQA/CSAF

RUWJABA/DEP IG FOR INSP AND SAFETY USAF NORTON AFB CALIF

ZEN/FC DASA SANDIA BASE NMEX

ZEN/SANDIA CORP SANDIA BASE

ZEN/AEC ALOO SANDIA BASE NMEX

RUEKW/CNO

RUCKHC/CINCLANTFLT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority Brang 4

By ig, NARA, Date 4-30-87

INFO....CJCS-1 DJS-3 GC-1 J3-8 J5-2 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 AE-1

DASA-2 CSA-2 CMC-7 ASD/PA-1 WH-3 FILE-1(48)DFH/M

PAGE 1 OF 2

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~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

BT

~~SECRET~~ AFINS 00063 JAN 66. FOR: 16AF (CP AND ADVON);

OSD (ASST SEC OF DEF FOR ATOMIC ENERGY/MR HOWARD);

CSAF (AFIIS AND AFIGO); DIG/IS (AFIDI AND AFIDIA3);

FC/DASA (JNACC); SANDIA CORP (DIV 9300 AND DEPT

540/MR S. A. MOORE); AEK/ALOO (MR. WALTER F. WHITE).

16AF PASS TO GENERALS WULSON AND BECK. SUBJECT:

ANALYSIS OF AIRPLANE COLLISION NEAR VERA, SPAIN BY

SANDIA CORPORATION TEAM (MSG NO. 4) (U). MY AFINS

00059, 25 JAN 66, SAME SUBJ (MSG NO. 3). BASED ON

REFINEMENT OF COORDINATES OF PALOMARES FROM A MORE

DETAILED MAP THE POSITION FOR COMPUTED AIRCRAFT

COLLISION POINT SHOULD NOW READ 37 DEGREES 14.7

MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE AND 01 DEGREE 44.1 MINUTES

WEST, REPEAT 44.1 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE. NEW

ESTIMATE OF UNIT NUMBER FOUR IMPACT POSITION IS

37 DEGREES 13.9 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE AND 11 DEGREES

42.3 MINUTES WEST, REPEAT 42.3 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE.

RANGE AND AZIMUTH COMPUTATIONS GIVEN IN REFERENCED

MESSAGES REMAINS VALID AND UNCHANGED. GP-4.

BT

ADV CYS TO OSD NMCC

PAGE 2 OF 2

71067

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~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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71088

24

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

127 0534Z

~~NOFORN~~

NOFORN

I 17/27, CS 029
CIEO 000CZCEIA790CEFO90
PP RUEKDA
DE RUTQBN 10A 0201840
ZNY SSSSS
P 201615Z
FM 16AF ADVON SPAIN
TO RUEKDA/SEC OF DEF
RUEAHQ/CSAF
RUWHNF/DIR OF AEROSPACE SAFETY NORTON AFB CALIF
RUCSC/SAC
RUEBFKA/68BW SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB NC
RUWGGM/340BW BERGSTROM AFB TEX
RUWGHU/91MBW BLYTHEVILLE AFB ARK
RUWGNK/OCAMA TINKER AFB OKLA
RUWGNH/SAAMA KELLY AFB TEX
RUEBBAA/AFSC
RUCDSQ/AFLC
RUCDAQ/AFCS
RUCDAA/MAC
RUCDGU/ASD WPAFB OHIO
AIG 667
AIG
RUWHSS/1SASD VANDENBERG AFB CALIF
RUWGAA/1CEG BARKSDALE AFB LA
RUCSC/3902ABWG OFFUTT AFB NEBR
RUEBBAA/1001ABWG ANDREWS AFB MD
AIG 754
AIG 755
AIG 756
AIG 757
AIG 670
AIG 671
AIG 676

ACT....AE-2

INFO...CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 GC-1 WH-3

ST-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMC-7 DASA-2 FILE-1(50)GB/M

PAGE 1 OF 3

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-220

By ing NARA. Date 2-11-91

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

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RUEBBRA/TAC LANGLEY AFB VA
RUHLKM/CINCPACAF
RUKDAG/SAC VICTOR ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA
RUHRKF/SAC XRAY CAMP H M SMITH HAWAII
RUTQBN/16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN
RUHLKM/6486 ABNCOMD COM SQ HICKAM AFB HAWAII
RUWMBAA/AFPRO BOEING CO SEATTLE WASH
RUWJFDA/WICHITA AFPRO AF PLANT WICHITA KANSAS
RUEABL/HQ COMD USAF

BT

~~SECRET RESTRICTED DATA~~ NOFORM 00048 JAN 66. SUBJECT: PROGRESS
REPORT NO. 3 OF MAJOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
(SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. SEE AFR 127-4). FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ATSD (AE), FOR AFIAS; SAC FOR DOSD AND GEN RYAN; AFSC FOR SCIZ;
CSAF FOR AFCSG; DIG/SAFETY;
AFLC FOR DS; ALL OTHERS FOR SAFETY.

A. 17 JAN 66, 0923Z

B. SADDLE ROCK AIR REFUELING AREA SPAIN

C. KC 135 SN, 6100273

B-52SN, 58,256

\$. B52 SAC 8 AF 68BW 51 BS SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB NC KC135 SAC 2AF

97BW V970MS BLYTHVILLE AFB ARK.

E THRU J. NO CHANGE

K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT TO THE COLLISION WAS SECURED
FROM CREW MEMBERS ABOARD THE LEAD KC-135. THE ARCP MADE AT
0910Z, INITIAL CONTACT BY THE LEAD TANKER AND RECEIVER WAS MADE AT
0921Z, POSITION 3718 NORTH 0148 WEST. FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER AT
0921Z, THE LEAD BOOM OPERATOR ANNOUNCED EXPLOSION. AT 0923Z
WREKAGE BEGAN REACHING GROUND. MAGNETIC HEADING WAS 270 DEGREES.
TRUE COURSE 253 DEGREES. NUMBER TWO TANKER WAS SUSPOSED TO BE AT
31,000 FEET AND TWO NAUTICAL MILES RIGHT AT SIXTY DEGREE ECHELON.
ABOVE BASED UPON OBSERVATIONS OF LEAD AIRCRAFT COPILOT AND EXTRACT OF
LEAD NAVIGATORS LOG. THE COPILOT MADE ADDITION OBSERVATIONS.
KC-135 AND B-52 INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT WERE MAKING CONTRAILS OFF
TO HIS RIGHT. HE OBSERVED THE OTHER RECEIVER APPROACHING HIS TANKER
AT A NORMAL RATE. JUST AFTER THE LEAD RECEIVER MADE CONTACT, HE
HEARD A TRANSMISSION FROM THE NUMBER TWO TANKER, PRESUMABLY MADE
BY THE NUMBER TWO TANKER BOOM OPERATOR, QUOTE WATCH YOUR RATE OF
CLOSURE UNQUOTE. SHORTLY AFTER THIS THE LEAD BOOM OPERATOR
REPORTED THE EXPLOSION. MEMBERS OF THE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT BOARD

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

MESSAGE CENTER

CONTINUED THE WORK OF IDENTIFYING AND EXAMINING AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WRECKAGE YET TO BE RECOVERED FROM THE SEA. SUFFICIENT MATERIAL HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PLOTTED TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DEPICTION OF WRECKAGE PATHS. THE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT BOARD WILL CONVENE NEXT AT TORREJON AFB, SPAIN AND SUBSEQUENT PROGRESS REPORTS WILL EMANATE FROM THERE. SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WILL REMAIN AT THE SCENE TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF WRECKAGE RECOVERED FROM SEA.

T. THUR X. NO CHANGE

6. COL GEORGE PAYNE BOARD PRESIDENT.

GP-1

BT

ADV CY TO NMCC

PAGE 3 OF 3

71088

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

1 27 02 46Z

F714

JCS 1137/WU

PP RUEKDA

DE RUCKHC 045 026194 1

ZNY SSSSS

P 261942Z

FM CINCLANTFLT

TO RUCKDA /COMNAVAIRLANT

RUCKDD /COMSERVLANT

RUCKDR /COMSUBLANT

RUEGXC /DEPCOMSUBLANT

RUCKDT /COMASWFORLANT

RUCKRX /COMSECONDFLT

INFO RUECW/CNO

ZEN/CINCLANT

RUDLKD /CINCUSNAVEUR

RUTKRC /COMSIXTHFLT

INFO.....CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 J4-3 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 GC-1

AE-1 DASA-1 WHITE HOUSE-3 STATE-1 CSA-2 CSAF-1 CMC-7 FILE-1

(50)ETO/F

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ/RAC 05-20
By nl, NARA, Date 2-26-07

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

MESSAGE CENTER

RUTHBH/CHJUSMG MAAG MADRID SPAIN

RUFLC/USCINCEUR

RUEKDA/JCS

BT

~~SECRET~~

OVERFLIGHT OF SPAIN WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS ~~(S)~~

A. JCS 2383 DTG 242037Z NOTAL

1. REF A ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF ALL OVERFLIGHTS OF SPAIN BY AIRCRAFT CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. ABOVE PROHIBITION INTERPRETED TO INCLUDE LOGISTIC FLIGHTS.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL LOGISTIC FLIGHTS WITH CINCLANTFLT NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO AND OUT OF SPAIN ARE SUSPENDED.

GP-1

BT

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ADV TO NMCC

PAGE 2 OF 2

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FOR NMCC/MC
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JCS 166/25

RR RUEKDA

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FM SAC

TO RUEAHQ/CSAF

INFO RUEKDA/JCS

BT

~~SECRET~~ DO 00691 JAN 66

FOR AFXOPF, CSAF; J-3, JCS. SUBJ: AIRBORNE ALERT.

IN ANTICIPATION OF RESUMING CHROME DOME SOUTH ROUTE INDOCTRINATION
AND IN RECOGNITION OF OVERFLIGHT WITH WEAPONS PROBLEMS SAC IS PLANNING
REVISED ROUTES UNDER TWO OPTIONS. THE FIRST MOVES AIR REFUELING
ROUTES OUT OVER THE WATER BUT PRESUMES CONTINUED SPANISH OVERFLIGHT
WITH WEAPONS AND WE APPRECIATE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE WOULD INDICATE NO
OVERFLIGHT PERIOD. THE SECOND OPTION INVOLVES NO OVERFLIGHT OF

INFO..CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 GC-1 ASDPA-1

AE-1 DIA-15 WH-3 STATE-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMC-7 FILE-1(59) GB/LE

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

Group 4

By isp, NARS, Date 2-20-80

PAGE 1 OF 2

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FOREIGN LAND MASS EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY, I.E., MISSED AIR REFUELING,
ENGINE LOSS, ETC., AND FEATURES AN OFF COAST ORBIT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
U.K. AND STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR. EXACT PLACEMENT WOULD BE A REFLECTION
OF "EFFECTIVENESS" ADANTAGES AND AIR SPACE CLEARANCE PROBLEMS.
HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO FINALIZE ROUTE PLANNING, IT IS NECESSARY FOR
THIS HEADQUARTERS TO KNOW IF NUCLEAR CARRIERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO
LAND IN SPAIN ANF/OR ENGLAND IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY. REQUEST YOUR
PROMPT ACTION ON RESOLVING NUCLEAR OVERFLIGHT AND/OR LANDING
AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. GP-4.

BT

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PAGE 2 OF 2

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B204 Z/25/JCS352/R2

EN490E 1A045E 1A980 CEF435

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FM 16AF ADVON

TO RUEKDA-/SECDEFWASH

RUEPXG/AEC WASH

INFO RUEAHQ/CSAF WASH

RUCSC/CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB

RUMFNA/DIR NUC SFTY KIRTLAND AF NM

RUMPQA/AEC ALO NM

RUMPQL/DASL LOS ALAMOS NM

BT

~~SECRET RESTRICTED DATA~~ ATOMIC ENER ACT 1954. C-00031. JAN66.

AEC (DMA): INFO: SECDEF (ASTD-AE): CSAF, FOR

GEN MCCONNEL: CINCSAC FOR GEN RYAN: DNS AFINS): AEC (ALO):

THIS MSG IN TWO PARTS. PART I. AEC WASH FOR DMA FROM DR. LANGHAM.

SURVEY OF SITUATION SHOWS TWO AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT ALPHA CONT-

ACT.....AE-2

INFO....CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 GC-1 ASD/PA-1 STATE-1
W/HOUSE-3 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMC-7 FILE-1 (48)GB/CL

PAGE 1 OF 3

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AMINATION. SURFACE CONTAMINATION RANGES FROM ABOUT 500 MICROGRAMS
OF PU PER SQUARE METER WITHIN 5 TO 10 FT OF IMPACT POINTS TO
ABOUT 20 MICRO GRAMS PER SQUAREMETER AT ONE HALF MILES DOWNWIND

IN AN ARC OF APPROX30 DEGREES. ONE UNIT RESULTED IN NO SPREAD
OF ACTIVITY, ONE RESULTED IN ACTIVTY BEING SPREAD IN THE COMMUNITY
OF PALOMERES. A THIRD UNIT SPREAD ACTIVITY IN A NEAR BY AREA WHICH
IS LARGELY UNINHABITED BUT PARTIALLY CULTIVATED: THE FOURTH KIT HAS
NOT BEEN FOUND. THE MOST TROUBLESOME SITUATIONS THAT CREATED
IN THE COMMUNITY OF PALOMARES WHICH INVOLVES PEOPLE, THEIR FARM
PLOTS AND THEIR DOMESTIC ANIMALS. IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT NO
REAL HEALTH HAZARD TO THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN SUSTAINED. THE
NUISANCE POTENTIAL HOWEVER IS SIZEABLE AND TO THEM THE POTENTIAL
ECONOMIC ASPECTS ARE SERIOUS. THEIR PRODUCE ON WHICH THEY DEPEND
FOR A LIVING IS BEING REFUSED IN THEIR MARKETING CHANNELS THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THIS IS HAPPENING IS NOT KNOWN. MANY LOCAL
INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN CHECKED FOR EXTERNAL CONTAMINATION AND
OCCASIONALLY LIGHT TO MODERATE CONTAMINATION OF SHOES AND
OTHER CLOTHING HAS BEEN DETECTED AND IMMEDIATELY AND EASILY REMOVED.
EVERY EFFORT IN MINIMIZE ANY REAL RISK TO THE POPULATION IS BEING

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TAKEN. THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ARE COOPERATIVE BUT NOT
EASILY CONVINCED AS TO HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE
PROBLEM. PART II. SEC DEF CSAF, CINCSAC GEN RYAN AND OTHER INFO
ADDRESSEES. THIS MSG PREPARED BY DR. LANGHAM, ASST HEALTH DIVISION
LEADER, LOS ALAMOS, FOR DMA TO PASS TO DR. SEABORG AND IS DR.
LANGHAMS ON THE SPOT ASSESSMENT. GP1 .

BT

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ADV CY TO NMCC

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B139 VJCS029/24/R-2/R5

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DE RUTHAN 4131157Z

WNY SSSSS

0231100Z ZEL

X16AF ADVON

O RUEAHQ/CSAF

RUEKDA/SECDEF

RUMFNADICNUCWAR SFTYKIRTLAND KB M

RRUWHN/DP IFPGEN FOR INSP AND SFTYNORTON AFB CALIF

RUCSC/AC

RUEHB8AF WESTOVECAFXSS

RUTQXA/16AF TORREJONUB SPAIN

RUZFK/68BW SEYMUR JOHNXXN AX NC

RUEBBA/AFSC

RUCDQ/AFLC

RUWGMSAAMA KELLY AFB TEX

RUMFNAAFVC KCTWNUFB NMEX

RUWHHL/00UHILL AFB UTAH

ACT: AE-3

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 GC-1 W/HOUSE-3

ST-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMC-7 FILE-1 (49) JH/VB

1 OF 12

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sep. 3.5

NLJ 05-19

By isl, NARA, Date 11-13-06

IMMEDIATE

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FO RUFPBWL UFE CP LINDSEY AS GER

RUCVSK/SAC OTSL CARSWELL AFB TEX

BT

~~SECRET~~ RD C0010 JAN 66. SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS.

FG NMCCONELL AND , 46-,,

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NO. 1 (ADVON OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENT
(BROKEN ARROW). CSAF AFIGO, AFIS, AFSSS-AE; AFIF; AFIDI; DO,DM,
DOSD; 8AF AND 16AF (O,DM,DS); DCO, DCM,DS; SCIZ; MCASS; SAWMT;
SWVN; OOYS.

THE PJPIMINARY RQORT 273 SW UNCLAS MSG BDS 01055,
17 JAN 66 COVERED ONLY AIRCRAFT ASPECTSMF ACDT. ADDITIONAL
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN SENT OKT FROM TORREJON AB. REPORTS
DID NOT GO TO ALL ABOVE ADDRESSEES HOWEVER THIS REPORT CONSTITUTES
AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON WEAPONS AND RADIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF
THIS ACDT FROM OCCURRENCE. FUTURE SUP REPTS 8)) 73 \$\$8&,-53\$
"ADVON". ADDRESSEES REQUIRED BY ATCHM'T 4, AFR 127-4 WERE USED.
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

A. 17 JAN 66. 0923Z, VILLAGE OF PALOMARDS, SPAIN 160 DEGREES
TRUE AT 216N MILES FROM TORREJON AB.

B. FOUR, [REDACTED] BOMBS. NO. 1. SER

6.2(a)

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NO. 54327; NO. 2 SER NO. 330448; NO. 3, SER NO. 434379 AND NO
4, SER NO. 45345. WEAPONS WILL BE REFERED TO AS NO. 1,2,3, OR
4 IN THIS AND FUTURD REPORTS. NONE OF THE WEAPONS PRODUCED A NUCLEAR
DETONATION. NO. 1 FOUND APPROX 200 YARDS ON SHORE IN A TRUCK
GARDENING AREA. NO HABITATION IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. MONITORING WITH
PAC-1S AND T-290 REVEALED NO CONTAMINATION. A/S SW INDICATED SAFE. LOADING
LUGS WERE STILL ENGAGED IN MB-3 RACK. TAIL CLOSING PLATE HAD TORN AWAY
FROM THE CASE. 16 AND ONE HALF FOOT RIBBON DROUGUE CHUTE HAD DEPLOYED.
RING AT END OF CASE HAD NOT BEEN PULLED AWAY. BOMB NOSE DEPRESSED INWARD
FROM IMPACT. THREE OF FOUR BOMB FINS WERE TORN AWAY AND ARE MISSING
THE 3 FINS AND TAIL PLATE HAVE NOT BEEN RECOVERED. WEAPON WAS RENDERED
SAFE. WPN AND PARACHUTE ASSEMBLIES WERE SEPARATED AND INDIVIDUALLY
LIFTED BY HELICOPTER INTO TRANSPORT TRUCK.

NO 2 WEAPON WAS FOUND IN ISLOATED UNINHABITED HILL APPROX ONE MILE
WEST OF VILLAG OF PALOMARES. AREA IS ROCKY AND SUPPORTS NO VEGETATION.
A LOW ORDER HIGH DETONATION OCCURRED. APPROX [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

WAS RECOVERED IN SMALL PIECES AND SLIVERS. CRATER WAS APPROX 20 FT
ACROSS AND 6 FT DEEP. SECONDARY WAS IN CRATER.; [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

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END. TRITIUM BOTTLE HAD BEEN BLOWN INTO POTTING MATERIAL OF FIRE SET.

T-BOTTLE RECOVERED ABOUT 25 FEET FROM CRATER. VENTING OF T-BOTTLE
COULD NOT BE ASCERTAINED. AFTERBODY AND PARA-PACK HAD BEEN BLOWN
ABOUT 100 YARDS AWAY. MDF HAD FUNCTIONED. 16 AFD ONE HALF FEET
RIBBON DROGUE CHUTE HAD SPILLED OUT. MAIN CHUTE WAS OUT MK RUPTURED
CASE BUT WAS STILL IN CHUTE COVER. WPN CASE FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND
WITHIN 100 YARDS OF CRATER IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

NO. 3 WEAPON FOUND IN VEGETABLE GARDEN WITHIN VILLAGE OF PALOMARES
APPROX 2 MILES NORTHWEST OF NO. 1.

SECONDARY WAS LOCATED IN CRATER 4 FT ACROSS AND 3 FT DEEP. LOW
ORDER DETONATION OF HE OCCURRED. [REDACTED] HE RECOVERED IN SMALL
CHUNKS AND DESTROYED LOCALLY. AFTERBODY FAIRLY INTACT BUT DENTED
BY IMPACT AND DETONATION. 16 AND ONE HALF FT RIBBON DROGUE CHUTE
DEPLOYED. WPN CASE AND INTERNAL WPN PARTS BADLY BROKEN UP AND MANGLED
BY IMPACT AND DETONATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TRITIUM BOTTLE MASHED,
RUPTURED AND VENTED. FOUND ABOUT 1500 FT FROM IMPACT. MAIN CHUTE INTACT
REMAINED INSIDE AFTERBODY.0

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4 OF 12

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O. 4 WEAPON HAS NOT BEEN FOUND. REAR COVER PLATE WITH MDF INTACT WAS RECOVERED. IT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY PUSHED AWAY FROM WEAPON. INTENSIVE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR WPN BY NAVY EOD DIVERU AND USAF PERSONNEL.

C. KC-135, 61-0273 AND B252G, 58-256.

D. 68BW, SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, N.C., HQ 8AF, SAC.

E. IN-FLIGHT REFUELING OF CHROMEDOME B-52 BY KC-135 AT 31,000 FT ALTITUDE, SADDLE ROCK AIR REFUELING AREA, SPAIN 3714M/0147W.

F. DURING A RENDEZVOUS THE B252 WAS CLOSING FOR REFUELING WITH THE TANKER AND A MID-AIR COLLISION OCCURRED. BOTH AIRCRAFT CRASHED. ALL FOUR WEAPONS LEFT THE BOMB BAY. THREE WEAPONS WERE FOUND IN CONDITION

INDICATED ABOVE. ALL BUT A FEW OF THE WEAPON PARTS RECOVERED WERE PLACED IN TEMPORARY PACKAGES AND TAKEN TO TORREJON AB. ITEMS ARE BEING RZPACKED UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS. DECONTAMINATION WILL BE EFFECTED TO INSURE OUTSIDE CONTAINERS HAVE NO RADIATION COUNT. AEC PERSONNEL ARE ASSISTING AND ALL ITEMS WILL BE AIRLIFTED TO THE Z1. ALPHA

CONTAMINATION EXISTS IN IMMEDIATE AND ADJACENT AREAS WHERE NO. 2 AND

NO. 3 WEAPONS IMPACTED. NO DEATHS OR INJURIES RESULTED FROM FALLING WEAPONS OR CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE DETONATIONS.

NO. 2 WEAPON FELL IN ISOLATED UNINHABITED HILL. ALTHO AREA SHOWS

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VARYING LEVELS OF CONTAMINATION ITS REMOTE LOCATION
KEEPS PERSONNEL AWAY NO. 3 WEAPON FELL IN THE VILLAGE OF PALOMARES.
INHABITANTS LIVE CLOSE TO THE IMPACTED AREA. CROPS SURROUND THIS AREA.
DURING 18 JAN TO PRESENT, RAD MONITORING WAS PERFORMED AROUND NO. 2
AND 3 WEAPON IMPACT AREAS SHOW CONTAMINATION. PAC-1S ALPHA
DETECTORS WERE USED. SOIL, CROPS, BUILDINGS, WATER, THE ATMOSPHERE,
PERSONNEL (INCLUDING SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL AND CIVILIANS), ARE
CONTINUING TO BE CHECKED FOR CONTAMINATION.
USAF PERSONNEL WERE MONITORED FOR POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION. READINGS
ON CLOTHING OF EOD PERSONNEL RANGED FROM 100-1500 CPM. ONE ISOLATED
READING WAS 15,000 CPM. DECONTAMINATION REDUCED THIS TO A NEGLIGIBLE
POINT. AIR SAMPLES TAKEN ON 19 JAN IN THE CAMP
SITE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM PALOMARES WERE NEGATIVE. AT LEAST
53 URINE SAMPLES OF USAF PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS OF 1800 HRS
22 JANUARY AND WILL BE SENT TO LAB FOR ANALYSIS.
ON 20 JAN, WATER SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FROM WELLS NEAR VILLAGE OF SAMPLES
WERE SENT TO LAB FOR ANALYSIS. GP-1

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C143 CJCSE74/24/R2

CDZR260VV XDA RTEANA029

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DE RUTHAN 17 231157Z

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FM 16AF ADVON

TO RUEAHQ/CSAF

RUEKDA/SECDEF

RUWMFNA/DIR NUCLEAR SFTY KIRTLAND AFB NM

RUWHNF/DEP INSP GEN FOR INSP AND SFTY NORTON AFB CALIF

RUCSC/SAC

RUETHB/8AF WESTOVER AFB MASS

RUTQBNA/16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

RUETFK/68BW SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB NC

RUEBBAA/AFSC

RUCD SQ/AFLC

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7 OF 12

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FM 16AF ADVON

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RUWMFNA/DIR NUCLEAR SFTY KIRTLAND AFB NM

RUWHNF/DEP INSP GEN FOR INSP AND SFTY NORTON AFB CALIF

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RUETHB/8AF WESTOVER AFB MASS

RUTQBNA/16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

RUETFK/68BW SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB NC

RUEBBAA/AFSC

RUCDSQ/AFLC

RUWGNH/SAAMA KELLY AFB TEX

RUWMFNA/AFSWC KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUWHHL/OOAMA HILL AFB UTAH

INFO RUFPBWL/USAFE CP LINDSEY AS GER

RUCVSK/SAC OTSL CARSWELL AFB TEX

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~~SECRET~~ RD C0010 JAN 66. FINAL SECTION OF 2. RESULTS WERE NEGLIGIBLE

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(1.3×10^{-9} MICROGRAMS PER LITER). AIR SAMPLES TAKEN INDICATED INSIGNIFICANT CONTAMINATION (RANGES FROM 2.3×10^{-7} TO 3.8×10^{-6} MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METER). ON 20 JAN, SPANISH NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES MADE CONTACT WITH US AND MADE PLANS FOR MONITORING PERSONNEL, SOIL, BUILDING, AND AIR AND TOOK URINE GRAB SAMPLES OF FAMILIES LIVING WITHIN IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CRATER IN PALOMARES. URINE SAMPLES RESULTS WERE 0.3, 0.2, 0.2 CGLNITS PER MINUTE FROM SAMPLES 13, 15 AND 7 CUBIC CENTIMETERS, RESPECTIVELY.

DURING 21 JAN 1966, RAD MONITORING CONTINUED IN AND AROUND NO 2 AND 3 WEAPON IMPACT AREAS. PAC-1S ALPHA DETECTORS WERE USED. IN THE NO. 3 AREA MONITORING COVERED A FAN SHAPED AREA 360 DEGREES THRU 90 DEGREES APPROXIMATELY ONE TO ONE AND ONE HALF MILES AND A SEMI CIRCLE 180 DEGREES THRU 360 DEGREES FOR APPROXIMATELY 1000 FEET, ALL FROM WEAPON CRATER. ALL CROPS WERE MONITORED WITHIN AND AROUND NO. 3 AREA. READINGS IN EXCESS OF 100 CPM WERE IDENTIFIED. READINGS RANGED FROM NON-DETECTABLE TO 160,000 CPM. AIR SAMPLES 160 FEET EAST TO SOUTH FROM CRATER WERE TAKEN DURING DECONTAMINATION OPERATION. RESULTS REVEALED THAT NO RESPIRATORY PROTECTION WAS REQUIRED FOR SHORT TERM EXPOSURE (20 DRM/M TO THE THIRD POWER)

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PERSONNEL PERFORMING

DECONTAMINATION WERE EQUIPPED WITH RESPIRATORS. NO SPANISH PERSONNEL WERE WITHIN THE AREA. A MAP OF THE NO. 3 AREA WAS MADE SHOWING READINGS TO DETERMINE WHAT CROPS AND ACREAGE TO BUY. THE NORTH WALL OF THE HOUSE SOUTHEAST OF THE CRATER WAS MONITORED. READINGS WERE LESS 50 CPM. AREA AROUND CRATER WHERE READINGS IN EXCESS OF 100,000 CPM WERE IDENTIFIED. THIS COVERED APPROXIMATELY 10,000 SQ. FEET AREA AROUND CRATER WITH READINGS IN EXCESS OF 2000 CPM BUT LESS THAN 100,000 WAS IDENTIFIED. THIS COVERED

PAGE 3 RUTHAN 17-~~SECRET~~

APPROXIMATELY 45,000 SQ. FEET. PERSONNEL PERFORMING DECONTAMINATION OPERATION WITHIN THIS AREA WERE MONITORED AT END OF WORK DAY. DECONTAMINATION WAS PERFORMED.

NO. 2 WEAPON CRATER IN ISOLATED, UNINHABITED HILL WAS MONITORED.

READINGS AT CRATER OR GROUND ZERO (GZ) WERE 100,000CPM.

DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE. AT 39 DEGREES AND 35 FEET FROM GZ, 25,000

CPM; AT 70 DEGREES AND 18 FEET, 80,000CPM; AT 70 DEGREES AND 230

FEET, 2,500 CPM; AT 219 DEGREES AND 18 FEET, 110,000 CPM; AT 2199

DEGREES AND 26 FEET, 45,000 CPV. APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED] HE WAS

6.2(a)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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RECOVERED WITHIN CRATER.

ON 22 JAN NO. 3 WPN CRATER WAS DUG OUT. REMOVED APPROX 2 FEET OF
CONTAMINATED TOP SOIL. CRATER OILED DOWN WITH WITH
LIGHT OIL SPRAY. READINGS AFTER REMOVAL RANGED FROM 20,000 CPM TO
90,000 CPM WITH AVG OF 50,000 CPM. VEGETATION WAS REMOVED
FROM PLOTS ADJACENT TO NO 3 WPN CRATER. APROX ONE AND ONE HALF ACRES
WERE REMOVED. ON 22 JAN 1966 A
MEETING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN USAF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND SPANISH MEDICAL,
CIVIL DEFENSE, NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION OFFICIALS,
THE MAYOR OF PALOMARES, CROP OWNERS AND CROP ASSESSORS. TENTATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO BUY 10 ACRES OF
CROPS, 6 PIGS AND 20 RABBITS. ADDITIONAL FARM ANIMALS ARE BEING
CONSIDERED FOR PURCHASE. ALL ANIMALS ARE BEING CONTROLLED
BY SPANISH OFFICIALS.

MR. A.F. CORUGDO, LAISON OFFICER TO TORREJON AB COMDR,
ATTENDED THIS MEETING. HE SPEAKS SPANISH FLUENTLY. HE SAID VILLAGERS
REACTED VERY FAVORABLY AND WERE MORE RELAXED. THEY ARE THINKING
MORE OF THE MONEY THEY WILL RECEIVE RATHER THAN OF ANY UNKNOWN
CONSEQUENCES OR IMAGINED FEARS GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE ACDT.

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THE 16AF CLAIMS OFFICER SAID THE LANDOWNERS WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE.

THEY UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION AND MADE NO DEMANDS FOR IMMEDIATE PAY-

MENT. THEY PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL TOTAL DAMAGES WERE ASSESSED.

TENTATIVE COST DAMAGED CROPS FOR TWO LANDOWNERS WAS ARRIVED

AT, I.E. \$418.33 AND \$383.33. LANDOWNERS AGREED TO MOVE

THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF AREA DURING CLEAN UP.

G. UNKNOWN

H. NEGATIVE

I. MHU-20C CLIP IN ASSEMBLY.

J. EOD (USAF AND NAVY), MEDICAL AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS BEING USED.

SAC SECURITY GUARDS AND GUARDIA CIVIL ARE BEING USED.

K. SEE ITEM F. ABOVE.

PAGE 5 RUTHAN 17 ~~SECRET~~

L. RECOVERED MATERIAL WAS TAKEN TO TORREJON AB FOR FURTHER

REPACKAGING BEFORE SHIPMENT BY AIR TO ZI

M. NO NEWS RELEASE HAS BEEN MADE FROM SITE OR 16AF.

N. NO

O. D. G. APOSTALON, MAJ. HQ SAC, NUCLEAR WEAPONS

OFFICER, EXT. 3125, OFFUTT AFB. THIS REPORT WAS

SUBMITTED FROM SITE OF ACCIDENT. GP-1

BT

ADV CY NMCC

PAGE 12 OF 12

65908

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

29
61510
CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

AF IN: 51711 (21 Jan 66) F/sah
ACTION: SSS-1 ADDED DIST: JCS-1, NMCC-1 (Strategic Desk) (2)
(Per Colonel Butt, XOPX, 20 Jan 66)gs
INFO: XOP-1, XOPX-2, XPD-4, IIS-1, IGO-1, SAFOS-3, MSG-1, JCS-1
(33)

XOP 1 - GEN CLIZBE

1 - GEN AYNESWORTH

1 - GEN SWANCUTT

1 - COL BECK

1 - COL MARSHALL

1 - COL SHOTTS

1 - COL JONES

1 - COL WEED

SAFOS 1 - GEN McBRIDE

1 - COL DAUGHTREY

OSD 1 - LT COL GORNALL (PH 75162)

CCS 1 - GEN KIRKENDALL

CVC 1 - COL BOWLEY

XDC 1 - COL CHRISTENSEN

1 - OPS DEP MAJ LOWERY

XPD 1 - COL ANDERSON

READDRESSED TO WHITE HOUSE (LTCOL CROSS)

INFO..CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 SECDEF-7
ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 GC-1 AE-1

~~FORN DISSEM~~

~~DISSEM~~

W-HOUSE-3 STATE-1 CMQ-7 FILE-1
(43)GB/L

NOFORN

SANITIZED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ 05-19 and NLJ 95-101
By isl, NARA, Date 11-13-06

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 66)

Pg 2 of 4

SMB F200ZCZCHQA583ZCEJB743

PP RUEAHQ

DE RUEPWZ 10 0202143

ZNY SSSSS

P 202131Z

FM DASA

TO RUECW/CNO

RUEPDA/DA

RUWPUJ/JNACC SANDIAB NMEX

RUEAHQ/CSAF

~~BT~~

~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~ NOFORN 607033

1. FOLLOWING IS AEC OBSERVER TEAM STATUS REPORT ON WEAPONS IN B-52/KC 135 ACCIDENT AT PALOMARES, SPAIN. AS OF TIME OF REPORT, 201502Z, THREE OF THE FOUR MK 28 FI WEAPONS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN CONDITION AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

2. WEAPON ONE (WH54327): RELATIVELY INTACT AFTER IMPACT IN REMOTE AREA. THREE TAIL FINS MISSING, PILOT CHUTE PULLED OUT, NOSE PARTIALLY CRUSHED, RACK ATTACHED TO LUGS, READY SAFE SWITCH IN SAFE POSITION. WEAPON TWO: APPARENT LOW ORDER DETONATION ON IMPACT

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AFHQ FORM 0-309B
JAN 62
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 66)

Pg 3 of 4

IN A REMOTE AREA. [REDACTED] OF HE RESIDUE RECOVERED.

6.2(a)

PAGE 2 RUEPWZ 100# ~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN~~

THE TAIL WITH PILOT CHUTE PULLED OUT AND GROUND IMPACT DAMAGE FOUND

APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET BACK ON TRAJECTORY PATH.. THE PIT HAS NOT

BEEN FOUND. THE SECONDARY WAS FOUND WITH [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

RESERVOIR FOUND ON EDGE OF IMPACT CRATER--CONDITION UNKNOWN.

SOME FUZING AND FIRING COMPONENTS RECOVERED, INCLUDING READY SAFE

SWITCH. POSITION OF READY SAFE SWITCH CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED BY

LATER POST MORTEM. WEAPON THREE: APPARENT LOW ORDER DETONATION ON

IMPACT WITHIN 200 FEET OF INHABITED STRUCTURES. [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

[REDACTED] OF HE RESIDUE RECOVERED. ONE RUPTURED RESERVOIR

BELIEVED TO BE FROM THIS WEAPON AND APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND

YARDS FROM WEAPON IMPACT POINT. NO FUZING AND FIRING COMPONENTS

RECOVERED AS YET

3. ALPHA COUNTS IN ONE OF THE IMPACT CRATERS (WEAPON 2 OR 3)

HAVE BEEN RECORDED AS HIGH AS 450,000 CPM. THE OTHER CRATER HAS

ALPHA READINGS, BUT PRECISE FIGURES NOT AT HAND AS THIS MESSAGE IS

PREPARED.

4. THE SEARCH IS CONTINUING FOR THE FOURTH WEAPON UTILIZING

APPROXIMATELY 400 PERSONNEL ON FOOT, ALL AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT,

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 66)

Pg 4 of 4

AND AT LEAST ONE NAVY VESSEL.

5. WEAPON RESIDUE FROM THREE WEAPONS ARE TO BE SHIPPED VIA TRUCK

PAGE 3 RUEPWZ 10 ~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN~~

TO SAN JAVIER, THEN BY AIRCRAFT TO TORREJON AIR BASE FOR REPACKAGING
AS NECESSARY. COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES EXTREMELY LIMITED AT THE
ACCIDENT SCENE WHICH REQUIRES DELIVERY OF CLASSIFIED MESSAGES TO
TORREJON FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE CONUS. GP-1.

BT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 51711 (21 Jan 66) F/sah Pg 1 of 4
ACTION: SSS-1 ADDED DIST: JCS-1, NMCC-1 (Strategic Desk) (2)
(Per Colonel Butt, XOPX, 20 Jan 66) ES
INFO: XOP-1, XOPX-2, XPD-4, IIS-1, IGO-1, SAFOS-3, MSG-1, JCS-1
(33)

XOP 1 - GEN CLIZBE
1 - GEN AYNESWORTH
1 - GEN SWANCUTT
1 - COL BECK
1 - COL MARSHALL
1 - COL SHOTTS
1 - COL JONES
1 - COL WEED

SAFOS 1 - GEN McBRIDE
1 - COL DAUGHTREY

OSD 1 - LT COL GORNALL (PH 75162)

CCS 1 - GEN KIRKENDALL

CVC 1 - COL BOWLEY

XDC 1 - COL CHRISTENSEN

1 - OPS DEP MAJ LOWERY

XPD 1 - COL ANDERSON

READDRESSED TO WHITE HOUSE (LTCOL CROSS)

SANITIZED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ 05-194-NLJ95-101
By isl, NARA, Date 11-13-06

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 66)

Pg 2 of 4

QNB F212202CHQA583ZOEJ8743

PP RUEAHQ

DE RUEPHZ 10 0202143

ZNY SSSSS

P 202131Z

FM DASA

TO RUECH/CNO

RUEPDA/DA

RUMPUJ/JNACC SANDIAB NMEX

RUEAHQ/CSAF

BT

~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN 607033~~

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 66)

PG 3 of 4

IN A REMOTE AREA. [REDACTED] OF HE RESIDUE RECOVERED.

6.2 (a)

PAGE 2 RUEPWZ 150//~~SECRET~~ FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 51711 (21 Jan 65)

PG 4 of 4

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PAGE 3 RUEPNZ 10 ~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN~~

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FOR NMCC/MC
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~~FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~
~~Handle as RESDAT in Foreign~~
~~Dissemination SubSect 144b~~
~~Atomic Energy Act of 1954~~

FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEKDA/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

RUCSC/SAC

BT

~~SECRET~~ FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NOFORN/DS 09014, JAN 66. SECTION

1 OF 2. FOR SEK DEF ATSD(AE); SAC FOR GENERAL RYAN. FOR OFFICIAL USE

ONLY. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (SE AFR 127-4). FROM MAJOR

GENERAL BECK AT SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE, TORREJON AB SPAIN.

REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE SECRET/FRD/DEF 1972 FROM ATSD (AE).

SUBJECT: B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT ON SOUTHEAST SPANISH COAST, 17

JAN. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS FURNISHED:

1. STATUS OF SEARCH.

A. A TAIL CLOSING PLATE ATTACHED TO THE AFT RING OF THE MDF

ACT....AE-1

INFO...CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 NMCC-1 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 GC-1 ASD/PA-1

~~WH-3~~ ST-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-7 FILE-1(49)GB/M

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NJ 05-19

By isl NARA Date 11-13-06

PAGE 1 OF 9

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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HOUSING, AND IDENTIFIED AS A PART OF WEAPON NUMBER FOUR, WAS FOUND WITHIN THE DISASTER CONTROL BIVOUAC AREA. EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS BROUGHT IN BY A SEARCHER OR CAME TO REST AT THE POINT WHERE FOUND. THE POINT IN QUESTION IS SITUATED ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM THE B-52 TAIL SECTION AND LIES GENERALLY BETWEEN THE WEAPON FOUND NEAR THE BEACH AND THAT WHICH IMPACTED IN THE VILLAGE OF PALAMARES. THE MDF HAD NOT FUNCTIONED BUT THE PLATE AND RING HAD PULLED AWAY FROM THE PARACHUTE HOUSING SHEERING THE RIVETS WHICH ATTACH THE RING TO THE HOUSING. BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE 68TH BOMB WING, THIS WEAPON WAS LOADED ON LOWERLEFT. THE WEAPON IMMEDIATELY ABOVE IT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THAT FOUND NEAR THE BEACH AND IS THE FIRST ON THE AIRCRAFT'S PROJECTED FLIGHT PATH. THE NEXT WEAPON ON THIS PATH IS THE ONE WHICH IMPACTED IN THE VILLAGE OF PALAMARES. ITS POSITION WAS THE LOWER RIGHT. THE WEAPON FARTHEST DOWN THE FLIGHT PATH, AND WHICH IMPACTED IN THE HILLS BEYOND PALAMARES, WAS LOADED ON THE UPPER RIGHT. ASSUMING THE TAIL CLOSING PLATE IN QUESTION CAME TO REST WHERE FOUND, THE POSSIBILITY THAT WEAPON FOUR IMPACTED IN THE WATER OFFSHORE IS ENHANCED.

B. INTERROGATION OF WITNESS REPORTED TO HAVE OBSERVED PARA

~~SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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CHUTES IS CONTINUING. SEARCH IS CONTINUING WITH MINESWEEPER ASSISTANCE EXPECTED BY 0730Z 21 JANUARY 1966.

2. STATUS OF RECOVERED WEAPONS:

A. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES CONDITION OF THE WEAPON LOCATED NEAR THE BEACH:

(1) THE ARM-SAFE SWITCH WAS INDICATING "SAFE."

(2) LOADING LUGS WERE STILL ENGAGED IN THE MB-3 RELEASE MECHANISM.

(3) THE TAIL CLOSING PLATE HAD TORN AWAY FROM THE REAR CASE AND THE PILOT CHUTE HAD DEPLOYED. RING AT END OF CASE HAD NOT BEEN PULLED AWAY.

(4) BOMB NOSE DEPRESSED INWARD, SLIGHTLY, FROM IMPACT.

(5) THREE OF THE FOUR BOMB FINS WERE TORN AWAY AND MISSING:

(A) THE THREE FINS AND TAIL CLOSING PLATE HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND.

(6) RSP ACCES WAS MADE INTO BATTERY COMPARTMENT. BATTERY WAS REMOVED. TRITUIM MONITORING PROVED NEGATIVE. ALPHA MONITORING PROVED NEGATIVE.

(7) THE WEAPON AND PARACHUTE ASSEMBLIES WERE SEPARTED

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AND INDIVIDUALLY LIFTED BY HELICOPTER INTO TRANSPORT TRUCK.

B. FOLLOWING PERTAINS TO WEAPON WHICH IMPACTED IN VILLAGE
OF PALAMARES:

(1) HIGH EXPLOSIVE HAD EXPERIENCED LOW ORDER DETONATION

[REDACTED] PCT OF H/E WAS RECOVERED IN SMALL PIECES AND
SLIVERS).

6.2(a)

(2) SECONDARY WAS IN THE CRATER. [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

[REDACTED] CRATER WAS ABOUT 20 FEET ACROSS AND SIX FEET
DEEP.

(3) THE TRITUIM BOTTLE HAD BEEN BLOWN INTO THE POTTING
MATERIAL OF THE FIRE SET. BOTTLE RECOVERED ABOUT 25 FEET FROM
CRATER.

(4) THE AFTERBODY AND PARA-PACK HAD BEEN BLOWN ABOUT ONE
HUFRED YARDS AWAY. THE MDF HAD FUNCTIONED AND THE PILOT CHUTE
HAD SPILLED OUT. THE MAIN CHUTE QAS OUT OF THE RUPTURED AFTER-
BODY CASE BUT WAS STILL IN THE CHUTE COVER.

(5) FRAGMENTS OF THE WEAPON CASE WERE FOUND WITHIN ONE
HUNDRED YARDS IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM THE CRATER.

(6) RECOVERY WAS MADE OF:

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NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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(A) SECONDARY- [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

(B) WEAPON CASE IN PIECES, [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

(C) TRITIUM BOTTLE - MASHED INTO POTTING MATERIAL
AND PARTS OF FIRE SET. WAS BENT AND MASHED BUT APPEARED INTACT.

(D) WEAPON AFTERBODY- BENT AND MANGLED FROM
EXPLOSION AND IMPACT.

(E) PARA-PACK - MAIN CHUTE STILL IN CANVAS CASING;
PILOT CHUTE SPILLED OUT BUT INACT.

(F) HIGH EXPLOSIVE- RECOVERED [REDACTED]
SMALL PIECES - CHIPS, SLIVERS).

6.2(a)

C. FOLLOWING RELATES TO WEAPON WHICH IMPACTED IN HILLS
BEYOND PALAMARES:

(1) AFTEBODY FAIRLY INTACT WITH PILOT CHUTE DEPLOYED.

(2) SECONDARY IN SMALL CRATER 3-5 FEET ACROSS; 3 FEET
DEEP.

(3) HIGH EXPLOSIVE IN PILE ON EDGE OF CRATER EXCEPT FOR
SOME SMALL PIECES SCATTERED OVER 300 FEET RADIUS. [REDACTED]

6.2(a)

BT

PAGE 5 OF 9

61642

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

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FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEKDA/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

RUCSC/SAC

BT

~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~ NOFORN/DS 09014, JAN 66.

FINAL SECTION OF 2.

(4) WEAPON CASE AND INTERNAL WEAPON PARTS BADLY BROKEN
UP AND MANGLED BY IMPACT AND DETONATION.

(5) RECOVERY WAS MADE OF:

(A) SECONDARY - CRACKED BUT INTACT EXCEPT FOR SMALL
PIECE BROKEN OUT [REDACTED]

(B) TRITIUM BOTTLE- MASHED AND RUPTURED. FOUND

6.2(2)

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ABOUT 1500 FEET FROM IMPACT POINT.

(C) HIGH EXPLOSIVE - RECOVERED IN SMALL CHUNKS

(D) WEAPON CASE AND INTERNAL PARTS - FRAGMENTED.



6.2 (a)

(E) AFTERBODY - INTACT BUT DENTED BY IMPACT AND
DETONATION.

(F) PARA-PACK - MAIN CHUTE INTACT AND INSIDE
AFTERBODY. PILOT CHUTE DEPLOYED, SCORCHED AND PARTIALLY BURNED.

D. WEAPONS AND DEBRIS, EXCEPT FOR TAIL CLOSING PLATE FOR
WEAPON FOUR, ARE IN TRANSIT TO TORREJON. REPACKING WILL BE
ACCOMPLISHED WITH ASSISTANCE OF AEC PERSONNEL AND ITEMS AIR-
LIFTED TO ZI.

3. STATUS OF RADIATION COUNT AND ACTIONS:

A. PAC IS MONITORING IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES ABOUT IMPACT
SITE IN VILLAGE OF PALAMARES ON 19 JANUARY REVEALED HIGHEST
READINGS ON AZIMUTH OF 80 DEGREES AT 60 FEET FROM IMPACT POINT. READ-
WAS 1,500,000 CPM AT THAT DISTANCE. AT 120 FEET READING WAS
45,000 CPM AND AT 330 FEET 5000 CPM. HIGHEST READING AT POINT
OF IMPACT WAS 600,000 CPM. FORCE OF BLAST WAS ON AZIMUTH OF

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
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80 DEGREE AND METAL PARTICLES ARE PREDOMINATLY IN THAT DIRECTION. SIMILAR READINGS ON 20 JANUARY REFLECTED A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN ALPHA COUNT, WITH A HIGH OF 450,000 AT 30 FEET ON AN AZIMUTH OF 1350 DEGREES. READING ON THE 80 DEGREE AZIMUTH AT SIXTY FEET WAS 120,000, WITH HIGHEST READING ON THAT AZIMUTH OF 130,000 AT THIRTY FEET. ACTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS INDICATED IN MESSAGE OF 19 JANUARY ARE CONTINUING. ADDITIONALLY, SPANISH AEC AUTHORITIES ARE PRESENT WITH A MOBILE LABORATORY AND ARE TESTING VILLAGE PERSONNEL, HOMES, WATER, AND SOIL. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN AT THIS TIME, NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED. DECONTAMINATION TO INCLUDE SCRAPPING AND REMOVAL OF SOIL, LEACHING, ETC. WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. COORDINATION WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES IS BEING EFFECTED.

B. PAC IS MONITORING OF IMPACT POINT IN HILLS BEYOND PALAMARES ON 19 JANUARY REVEALED A HIGH READING OF 210,000 CPM AT 15 FEET. WHILE THIS AREA IS UNINHABITED AND HAS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF VEGETATION, IT WAS NOTED THAT GOATS ARE HERDED IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE IMPACT. DECONTAMINATION MEASURES REQUIRED NOT YET DETERMINED.

C. URINE SAMPLES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM EOD RADIOLOGICAL PERSONNEL FOR ANALYSIS. READINGS ON SHOES OR CLOTHING HAVE NMT

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NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

EXCEEDED 15,000 CPM. AIR SAMPLES OF COMMAND POST AND BIVOUAC AREA ON
19 JANUARY WERE NEGATIVE. SPOT MONITORING OF CRASHED AIRCRAFT
PARTS SHOWED SPOTS OF CONTAMINATION IN EXCESS OF 2,000,000 CPM.
WATER SAMPLES TAKEN AT WELLS IN PALAMAES BY USAF PERSONNEL WERE
SENT TO LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS.
GP-1 APPLIES.

BT

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REF 1972(AE)

ADV CY TO OSD NMCC

PAGE 9 OF 9

61642

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1966 JAN 20 02 10

////////FLASH FOLLOWS PLS QSL ASAP ///

CRU 969

*****ZZ RUEPWW
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CCDA 877-
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Z 200145Z
FM NMCC
TO WHITE HOUSE
BT

~~SECRET~~

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NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
19 JANUARY 1966, 8:30 PM, EST

SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT

BOTH THE B-52 AND THE KC-135 INVOLVED IN THE MID-AIR COLLISION IN SPAIN CARRIED CLASSIFIED MATERIAL NECESSARY FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THEIR MISSION. SOME OF THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN RECOVERED, SOME IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE AND SOME IS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. COMPLETE LISTS OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ABOARD EACH AIRCRAFT ARE MAINTAINED AND ACCOUNTING IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED AS THE SEARCH PROGRESSES. INCLUDED ARE COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES, AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATING MANUALS, TARGET MATERIALS INCLUDING MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, CREW PROCEDURE CHECK LISTS, AND OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS. CLASSIFICATION RANGES FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO TOP SECRET. WHEN THE SEARCH IS COMPLETED ALL MISSING MATERIAL WILL BE KNOWN AND APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO COUNTER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY HAVE FALLEN INTO UNAUTHORIZED HANDS.
BT

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-215

By ing NARA, Date 1-29-91

NNNN

~~TOP SECRET~~

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TO WHITE HOUSE LT COL CROSS ARMED FORCES AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT
BT

~~TOP SECRET~~ DATA ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954. FROM NMCC,
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

19 JANUARY 1966, 4/30 PM EST

SPECIAL SITUATION REPORT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT IN SOUTHEASTERN SPAIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FURNISHED ON THE RECOVERY
AND SEARCH OPERATIONS FOR THE WEAPONS FROM THE B-52/KC-135
CRASH IN SOUTHEASTERN SPAIN.

ONE WEAPON WAS LOCATED 200 YARDS FROM THE SHORELINE
AND RECOVERED INTACT. THE WEAPON DID NOT BREAK UP, AND

PAGE 2 RUEAHQ 32 ~~TOP SECRET~~

THERE ARE NO RADIATION EFFECTS IN THE AREA.

A SECOND WEAPON WAS LOCATED IN A VEGETABLE GARDEN
IN PUEBLO PALAMARES APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES NORTHWEST OF THE
FIRST. THE WEAPON WAS BROKEN UP TO THE EXTENT THAT RADIATION
FROM FRAGMENTS OF PLUTONIUM IN THE WEAPON HAS BEEN MONITORED
IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. FRAGMENTS ARE BEING REMOVED AND
STANDARD DECONTAMINATION PRACTICES ARE UNDERWAY. THE
VEGETABLES IN THE GARDEN ARE BEING BOUGHT AND DESTROYED.

THE THIRD WEAPON WAS LOCATED IN A ROCKY UNINHABITED AREA
ABOUT ONE MILE WEST OF PUEBLO PALAMARES. THE WEAPON IS IN A
SIMILAR CONDITION TO THE SECOND WEAPON.

ALL AREAS WHERE WEAPONS OR COMPONENTS ARE LOCATED ARE
UNDER GUARD.

THE REMAINING WEAPON (FOURTH) IS STILL UNACCOUNTED
FOR AND THE SEARCH FOR IT IS CONTINUING.

THE CRASH SITE AREA IS LOCATED IN A VERY SPARSELY
POPULATED, REMOTE AREA OF SPAIN.

BT

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NY 88-215

NARA. Date 1-29-91

~~TOP SECRET~~

NNNN

~~SECRET~~

34

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

S'B E 170VV 0ZU108VV XDA046

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ZNY SSSSS

0 191923Z ZEE-A RUCSC

FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEAHQ/CSAF

RUMFNA/DNS KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUMHNF/DEPUTY TIG USAF NORTON AFB CALIF

RUCSC/SAC

RUCVAA/2AF BARKSDALE AFB LA

RUEHNB/8AF WESTOVER AFB MASS

RUEB3AA/AFSC

RUCDSQ/AFLO

RUNGAK/SAAMA KELLY AFB TEXAS

RUMFNA/AFSWC KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUNGAK/OCAMA TINKER AFB OKLA

RUMHHL/OCAMA HILL AFB UTAH

RUCVSK/SAC OTSL CARSWELL AFB TEXAS

RUCVHV/42AD BLYTHEVILLE AFB ARKANSAS

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USAF COMMAND POST

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ 05-19

By *id*, NARA, Date 11-13-06

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WORK PAPER

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

RUETSR/822AD TURNER AFB GA

BT

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FOR CSAF/AFIIS AND AFSSS-AE; DNS/AFINS; AFSC/SCIZ; AFLC/MCASS;
SAAMA/SAAMT; AFSWC/SWVN AND INFO SACLO; OOAAMA/OOYS; SAC/DGSDV
AND INFO DM4E; 2AF AND 8AF/DS; 42AD AND 822AD/DS. REPORT OF
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT (BROKEN ARROW); SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NR 3.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (SEE AFR 127-4).

A. NO CHANGE.

B. OF THE THREE MK 28 WEAPONS LOCATED ONE HAS A READABLE NUMBER
WHICH IS 54327. SEARCH IS CONTINUING FOR FOURTH WEAPON. TWO
U.S. NAVY MINE SWEEPERS, EQUIPPED WITH SONAR, FROM BARCELONA,

PAGE 2 RUTQBN 11 ~~SECRET~~

SPAIN, HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AND SHOULD BE ON THE SCENE IN 36
HOURS TO AID IN UNDERWATER SEARCH.

C THRU E. NO CHANGE.

F. AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IS STEWN OVER A LARGE AREA, ALONG LINE OF
FLIGHT, APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES LONG.

G THRU J. NO CHANGE.

K. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

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AFHO FORM 0-3098

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

L. ALL RESIDUE WILL BE RECOVERED, PACKAGED, AND RETURNED TO
SILAS MASON, AMARILLO, TEXAS.

M AND N. NO CHANGE.

O. CAPTAIN ROSS C COX, 16AF DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY, EXT 3445 OR
3113.

P. SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 127-4, PAR 17A(2).

GP-1 APPLIES.

BT

NNNN

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AFHQ FORM 0-309B
JAN 52
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

35
SEC 1/2 OF...5 9 1 4 1

A905/20/CS076/R-2

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

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READD WH/ST/ANMCC/NEACP/NECPA

FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEKDA/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

RUCSC/SAC

BT

~~FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~
~~Handle as RESDAT in Foreign~~
~~Dissemination-SubSect 144b~~
~~Atomic Energy Act of 1954~~

~~SECRET~~ FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NO FOREIGN DIS 09010, JAN 66.

SECTION 1 OF 11. FOR SEC DEF ATSD(AE); SAC FOR GENERAL RYAN. FOR

OFFICIAL USE ONLY. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (SEE AFR 127-4).

FROM MAJOR GENERAL BECK AT SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE, TORREJON AB/SPAIN.

REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE SECRET/FRD/DEF 1972, DATED 19 JAN 1966.

FOLLOWING IS QUOTE OF 16AF MSG DS 09008 ON WHICH SECDEF WAS NOT

AN ADDRESSEE: QUOTE. REFERENCE SEC DEF MSG DEF 1972 FROM ATSD (AE).

SUBJECT: B-52/ KC-135 ACCIDENT ON SOUTHEAST SPANISH COAST, 17 JAN.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS FURNISHED:

ACT....AE-1

INFO...CJCS-1 JDS-3 J3-8 NMCC-1 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 GC-1

WH-3 CSA-2 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-7 FILE-1(48)GB/M

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 88-220

Ry. lip NARA. Date 2-11-91

PAGE 1 OF 7

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

A. ONE WEAPON APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS ON SHORE IN A TRUCK GARDENING AREA. NO HABITATIONS IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. PILOT CHUTE DEPLOYED ON IMPACT. WEAPON DID NOT BREAK UP. NO RADIATION AFFECTS IN AREA.

B. ANOTHER WEAPON LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES NORTHWEST OF FIRST IN A VEGETABLE GARDEN WITHIN PUEBLO PALAMARES. PILOT CHUTE DEPLOYED ON IMPACT. WEAPON BADLY BROKEN UP. SECONDARY EXPOSED. PIT NOT LOCATED AND APPARENTLY DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE H.E. RECOVERED. ALPHA IN GENERAL AREA OF IMPACT MEASURED AT 5000 COUNTS PER MINUTE WITH A MAXIMUM OF 185,000 CPM IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF WEAPON REMNANTS. BITS OF WEAPON COMPONENTS READ IN EXCESS OF TWO MILLION CPM. REMOVAL OF ALL REMNANTS OF WEAPON UNDERWAY. VEGETABLES IN CONTAMINATED AREA BEING BOUGHT AND WILL BE DESTROYED. DECONTAMINATION WILL BE EFFECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 00-110A-8.

C. OTHER WEAPON LOCATED ABOUT ONE MILE WEST OF PUEBLO PALAMARES IN AN UNINHABITED AREA. WEAPON CONDITION SIMILAR TO ABOVE. PORTION OF PIT HAS BEEN RECOVERED. AREA IS ROCKY AND SUPPORTS NO VEGETATION. DETERMINATION OF DECONTAMINATION REQUIREMENTS IS UNDERWAY.

~~SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

D. ALL AREAS WHERE WEAPONS OR COMPONENTS LOCATED ARE UNDER GUARD.

E. REMAINING WEAPON STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. SEARCH IS CONTINUING.

F. THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE SPANISH PRESS 17-19 JAN, WITH PHOTO COVERAGE OF SCENE IN LATER ISSUES. HOWEVER, STORES DO NOT CARRY CRITICAL COMMENT AND ARE BEING TREATED SIMPLY AS AN UNUSUAL NEWS EVENT. AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPORT SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE IS OF THE OPINION THAT COVERAGE HAS REACHED ITS PEAK AND WILL NOW DECLINE. STRAIGHT ACCOUNTS APPEARED ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE 18 JAN ISSUES OF THE PARIS EDITION OF NY TIMES AND TRIBUNE. ISSUES OF 19 JAN DID NOT CARRY ANY REFERENCE TO THE ACCIDENT. FILM FROM ACCIDENT SCENE HAS APPEARED ON SPANISH NATIONAL TV AND ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED OVER SPANISH RADIO, AGAIN WITH NO CRITICAL COMMENT. QUERIES FROM AMERICAN NEWS BUREAUS IN MADRID HAVE DIMINISHED APPRECIABLY. REPRESENTATIVES OF UPI AND THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON THE SCENE THIS DATE.

G. GENERALLY SPEAKING THE CRASH SITE AREA IS LOCATED IN A SPARSELY-POPULATED, REMOTE AREA OF SPAIN.

H. PARAGRAPHS A THROUGH E IS A DIRECT QUOTATION OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL BECK TO CINCSACN HAND-CARRIED TO THIS HEADQUARTERS FROM

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

THE CRASH SITE. PARAGRAPHS F AND G ARE AN EVALUATION MADE BY

PAGE 4 RUTQBN 13 ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE.

1. CAPTAIN ROSS C COX, 16AF DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY, EXT 3445 OR
3113. REPORTED IAW AFR 127-4, PARA 17A(2). GP-1 APPLIES.

UNQUOTE. THE ABOVE QUOTED MESSAGE BASICALLY ANSWERS YOUR
QUERIES. THE FOLLOWING IS ADDED AND REPRESENTS UPDATED INFORMATION
AS OF 1545Z, 19 JAN 66.

AIR AND GROUND SEARCH IS CONTINUING FOR FOURTH WEAPON. ADDITIONALLY
TWO REPORTS OF SPANISH CIVILIANS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. ONE OF
THESE, A REPORT BY A FISHERMAN, WOULD INDICATE THAT WEAPON STRUCK
WATER ABOUT FIVE MILES OFF SHORE AND SANK. IN THE LIGHT OF
AIRCRAFT DEBRIS PATTERN THIS IS POSSIBLE. ANOTHER IS A REPORT BY
A SPANISH SHEPHERD WHO WAS SITUATED IN THE HILLS NEAR THE
CRASH. HE REPORTS HAVING SEEN A WHITE DOUBLE PARACHUTE OF VERY
LARGE SIZE WITH AN OBJECT DANGLING FROM IT. THIS TOO IS POSSIBLE
AND INTERROGATION PERSONNEL ARE CONTACTING WITNESSEES.
WEAPON REFERRED TO IN PARA A OF QUOTED MESSAGE HAS BEEN RE-
COVERED AND IS LOADED ON TRUCK. WEAPON IN PARA B, ALONG WITH ALL
DEBRIS WHICH COULD BE FOUND, IS ALSO LOADED. WEAPON IN PARA C

PAGE 4 OF 7

59141

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

IS READY FOR LOADING AND AWAITING ARRIVAL OF TRUCK. THERE ARE NO
ROADS IN THIS AREA OF VERY STEEP AND ROCKY HILLS. USE OF HELICOPTER
FOR RECOVERY WAS CONSIDERED UNDESIRABLE SINCE DUST COULD
SPREAD CONTAMINATION AND HELICOPTER WOULD OF NECESSITY PASS NEAR
GARDEN PLOTS IN AREA. EXPECT TO REMOVE WEAPON AND DEBRIS BY
1100Z, 20 JANUARY. ALL MATERIAL WILL BE TRUCKED TO SAN JAVIER ON
THE AFTERNOON OF 20 JANUARY AND IMMEDIATELY LOADED ABOARD A WAITING
C-124 FOR TRANSPORTATION TO TORREJON. MATERIAL WILL BE PLACED IN
AN IGLOO ALREADY CLEARED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PACKAGING AND
DISPOSITION WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING DIRECTIVES.
THE ONLY DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IS IN THE VILLAGE OF PALAMARES WHICH
HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 300 PERSONS. ONE WEAPON IMPACTED IN A
GARDEN PLOT WITHIN THE VILLAGE WITH A LOW-ORDER DETONATION OF A
PORTION OF THE H.E. A DOOR OF NEARBY HOUSE IS REPORTED TO HAVE
BEEN BLOWN IN. NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED. EXACT READINGS ARE
BEING TAKEN IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES ABOUT THE POINT OF IMPACT TO
INSURE PRECISE PLOTTING OF RADIATION COUNT. BIO-ENVIRONMENTAL
PERSONNEL HAVE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO HAZARD TO PERSONNEL IN
AREA EXCEPT THROUGH INGESTION OF CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES OR
ANIMALS WHICH HAVE EATEN CONTAMINATED VEGETATION. WITH THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE GUARDIA CIVIL AND THE VILLAGE MAYOR, STEPS HAVE
BEEN TAKEN TO KEEP ALL PERSONNEL OUT OF HAZARDOUS AREA.

BT

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59141

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

SEC 2 OF....5 9 1 4 1

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

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FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEKDA/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

RUCSC/SAC

BT

~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NO FOREIGN/DS 09010, JAN 66.~~

FINAL SEC OF TWO SECTIONS.

ADDITIONALLY, CROPS AND ANIMALS BELIEED CONTAMINATED ARE BEING
PURCHASED WITH CASH PAYMENTS TO OWNERS. CRASH AREA IS QUITE
REMOTE. CLOSEST TELEPHONE TO VILLAGE OF PALAMARES IS AT
CUEVAS DE ALMOZORA, ABOUT 30 MINUTES DESTANCE BY JEEP. PEOPLE
ARE QUITE CURIOUS AND MOST, AT LEAST AT THE PRESENT, SEEM TO ENJOY
THE EXCITEMENT. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MANY UNDERSTAND THE
NUCLEAR ASPECT OF THE CRASH; HOWEVER THEY APPRECIATE THAT THE
SITUATION IS UNUSUAL. PERHAPS THE FOLLOWING WILL CAST SOME

PAGE 6 OF 7

59141

~~SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

LIGHT ON ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS. THE MAYOR, HAVING NOTICED THE EXTENSIVE USE OF DETECTION EQUIPMENT , ASKED FOR A CHECK OF HIS HANDS. A LEADING VILLAGE CITIZEN WITH HIM ASKED THAT THIS HAIR BE CHECKED. CHECKS WERE VISIBLY NEGATIVE WITH PARTIES OBSERVING THEIR OWN READING. BOTH MEN SEEMED PLEASED AND DEPARTED JOKING ABOUT THE GRAY HAIR OF ONE OF THEM. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO CONCERN AND THAT THERE WILL NOT BE MORE AS THE EXCITEMENT DIES DOWN, IT WAS NOTED THAT SPANISH CIVILIANS AND GUARDIA CIVIL REFERRED TO THE WEAPONS AS MISSILES RATHER THAN BOMBS. THE GUARDIA CIVIL AND THE SPANISH AIR FORCE HAE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND AFXIOUS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT.

I AM ONLY AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF TWO NEWSPAPERMEN; ONE REPRESENTING THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR AND THE OTHER THE UPI.

GP-1 APPLIES.

BT

NNNN

REF 1972(AE)
REF 09008 IS 58700
ADV CY TO NMCC,SECDEF

PAGE 7 OF 7

59141

~~SECRET~~

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

36

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ACT... J3-8

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-3 J4-3 J5-2

SACSA-5 NMCC-1 SECDEF-7 GC-1 ASD/PA-1

AE-1 DIA-15 WHOUSE-3 STATE-1 CSA-2

CNO-2 CMC-7 FILE-1 (67) FGC/B

REF 84803 IS IN 57271 (J3).

5 9 0 3 2

REF 84948 IS IN 59032 (J3).

CALL 53337

FOR NMCC/MC

SERVICE

TYPE MSG

BOOK

MULTI

SINGLE

X

PRECEDENCE

ACTION

PRIORITY

INFO

PRIORITY

DTG 19 JAN 66 21 52Z

FROM: CSAF

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WASH D C 26

TO:

DIRECTOR DASA WASH D C

JOINT NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COORDINATING CENTER
SANDIA BASE N MU.S. Navy EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
FACILITY, INDIAN HEAD MARYLAND

INFO: SAC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTION:

OSD-ATSD (AE)
OSD-ASD (PA)SAFOI - 3
AFMSG - 1
AFIIS - 1

AFXPDS-L

~~SECRET-RESTRICTED DATA~~ ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954

AFSSSG 85032 Jan 66. Subject: Supplemental Report Number 2

of Nuclear Accident; Report Control Symbol DD-SD(AR)382. References
AFSSSG 84803 and 84948, Jan 66. Following report is submitted in ac-
cordance with Section IV, Department of Defense Instruction No.

7730.12 dated July 27, 1962, and Sec Def msg DEF 1972 from ATSD(AE).

A. One weapon approximately 200 yards on shore in a truck gardening
area. No habitations in immediate vicinity; chute deployed on im-
pact. Weapon did not break up. No radiation effects in area.B. Another weapon located approximately two miles northwest of first
in a vegetable garden within Pueblo Palamares. Pilot chute
deployed on impact. Weapon badly broken up. Secondary exposed. Pit
not located and apparently destroyed. Considerable HE recovered.DECLASSIFIED
EO 13292, Sec 3.5
NLJ 05-19

By idl NARA Date 11-13-06

DATE	TIME
19	
MONTH	YEAR
JAN	1966
PAGE NO	NO. OF
1	PAGES 3

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

PHONE

SIGNATURE

Lt Col Burdick
Muns Staff Off

74270

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - 1954

TYPED (for stamped) NAME AND TITLE

GEORGE W. VON ARB, Colonel, USAF

Chief, Atomic Energy Gp, D/S&S, DCS/S&L

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET-RESTRICTED

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
DO NOT APPLY

Gp-1

~~SECRET~~

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~ ~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

~~SECRET~~ ~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

PHONE

74270

Col Von Arb

Lt Colonel Burdick

PRECEDENCE

RELEASED BY

DRAFTED BY

ACTION Priority

INFO Priority

Alpha in general area of impact measured at 5000 counts per minute with a maximum of 185,000 CPM in immediate vicinity of weapon remnants. Bits of weapon components read in excess of two million cpm. Removal of all remnants of weapon underway. Vegetables in contaminated area being bought and will be destroyed. Decontamination will be effected in accordance with USAF T.O. 00-110A-8.

C. Other weapon located about one mile west of Pueblo Palamares in an uninhabited area. Weapon condition similar to above. Portion of pit has been recovered. Area is rocky and supports no vegetation.

Determination of decontamination requirements is underway.

D. All areas where weapons or components located are under guard.

E. Remaining weapon still unaccounted for. Search is continuing.

F. Of the three weapons located, one has a readable number which is 54327. Two U.S. Navy minesweepers, equipped with SONAR, from Barcelona, Spain, have been requested and should be on the scene in 36 hours to aid in underwater search. Aircraft wreckage is strewn over a large area, along line of flight, approximately five miles long. All residue will be recovered, packaged, and returned to

Silas Mason, Amarillo, Texas.

G. There has been extensive coverage in the Spanish Press 17-19

Jan, with photo coverage of scene in later issues. However, stories

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DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

~~ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - 1954~~

CONTROL NO.

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NO. OF PAGES

MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION

INITIALS

2

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REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS Op 1

AFSSSG 028766

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET-RD

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET RESTRICTED DATA~~

PRECEDENCE		RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION	Priority	Col Von Arb	Lt Col Burdick	74270
INFO	Priority			

do not carry critical comment and are being treated simply as an unusual news event. American Embassy officials report Spanish foreign office is of the opinion that coverage has reached its peak and will now decline. Straight accounts appeared on the inside pages of the 18 Jan issues of the Paris edition of NY times and tribune. Issues of 19 Jan did not carry any reference to the accident. Film from accident scene has appeared on Spanish national TV and accounts have been reported over Spanish radio, again with no critical comment. Queries from American News bureaus in Madrid have diminished appreciably. Representatives of UPI and the London Daily Mirror have been reported on the scene this date.

H. Generally speaking the crash site area is located in a sparsely-populated, remote area of Spain.

I. Paragraphs A through E are a direct quotation of a letter from General Beck to CINCSAC, hand-carried to Headquarters 16 AF from the crash site. Paragraphs G and H are an evaluation made by Headquarters sixteenth Air Force. Gp-1.

85032

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ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - 1954

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIALS
AESSSC 027/66		3	3		
REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS Gp-1				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	SECRET SECRET-RD

37

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION				ACT: J3-8			
SECRET RESTRICTED DATA				INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-3 J4-3 J5-2 SACSA-5			
TYPE MSG		BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	NMCC-1 S/DEF-7 GC-1 ASD/PA-1		
			X		AE-1 DIA-15 WHOUSE-3		
				STATE-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMC-7 FILE-1 (67) FGC/PFM			
				REF A IS 57271 (J3)			
				USAF COMM CALL 53337			
				HCC/MC SERVICE			
PRECEDENCE				HQ. USAF			
ACTION				DTG 192031Z JAN 66			
INFO				170 01287			

FROM: CSAF

TO: JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WASH D C 2-2

DIRECTOR DASA WASH D C

JOINT NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COORDINATING CENTER
SANDIA BASE N M

U.S. NAVY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
FACILITY, INDIAN HEAD MARYLAND

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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RES DAT

~~SECRET RESTRICTED DATA~~ ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 //

AFSSSG 84948 Jan 1966. Subject: Supplemental Report Number 1 of Nuclear Accident; Report Control Symbol DD-SD(AR) 382. Reference AFSSSG 84803 Jan 66. Following report is submitted in accordance with Section IV, Department of Defense Instruction No. 7730.12 dated July 27, 1962.

1. Date and Time: no change.

2. Location: Saddle Rock air refueling area, Spain coordinates 3714N/0149W approximate center of wreckage on ground; wreckage covers approximately 16 square miles.

3. Quantity and type of weapons: Four War Reserve [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Serial numbers: 45345, 54327, 434379, 330448.

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

~~ATOMIC ENERGY ACT~~

SANITIZED

EO 13292, Sec 3.5

NLI 05-19

BY [REDACTED] NARA Date 11-13-06

6.2(2)

DATE	TIME
19	
MONTH	YEAR
1 Jan	1966
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	3

DRAFTER	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE	RELEASE	SIGNATURE
	Lt Col J. R. Burdick Mun Staff Off (AFSSSG)	76270		James G. Burdick Lt Col
		SECRET		GEORGE W. VON ARB, Colonel, USAF Chief, Atomic Energy Gp, D/S&S, DCS/S&L

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET RESTRICTED DATA~~

PRECEDENCE		RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION	Priority	Col Von Arb	Lt Col Burdick	74270
INFO	Priority			

4. Property damage and/or personnel casualties: The B-52 collided with KC135 during air refueling; both aircraft destroyed. 4 B-52 crew members hospitalized; 7 fatalities, bodies recovered.

5. Type of carrier involved: no change.

6. Type of Operation: no change.

7. Whether weapon burned, detonated, or was exposed to fire: 3 weapons have been located and secured by USAF personnel. One intact, other 2 give evidence of some HE detonation.

8. Details of any existing nuclear hazard and radiation readings, if applicable. There is evidence of some radiation; types and intensities are unknown.

9. Condition of weapons. The three weapons located lie along a line oriented along 300 degrees. The first weapon is approximately 400 yds from the shoreline; the 2nd weapon one mile further inland; the third weapon an additional mile further west from the 2nd weapon. They are located in the general area of the B-52 debris but indications are that they fell free. The four weapon package apparently broke up in the air. Starting from the coast line, the first weapon inland is bent but intact. The 2nd and 3rd weapons inland are badly damaged; the secondaries are broken up, the primaries are virtually destroyed; pieces of high explosive are evident. The pilot chute on all three

84948

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DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

~~ATOMIC ENERGY ACT~~ - 1954

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIALS
AFSSSG	024/66	2	3		JRB
REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS Gp-1				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET-RD	

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET-RESTRICTED DATA~~

PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION Priority	Col Von Arb	Lt Col Burdick	74270
INFO Priority			

weapons deployed or popped out, perhaps on impact, but the main chutes did not deploy. The fourth weapon has not been located, which suggests the strong possibility it is in the water. Owing to marginal communications, this information is subject to refinement and clarification.

10. Corrective action recommended: No change.

11. Copy of news releases. Joint statement approved by USIS, DOD, State Dept. Released 2145 17 Jan 66 to UPI, AP, Reuters, ABC Star and Stripes. A B-52 bomber from the 68th Bomb Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. and a KC-135 tanker from the 910th air refueling squadron, Bergstrom AFB, Texas, crashed today southwest of Cartagena, Spain, during scheduled air operations. There are reports of some survivors. An Air Force accident investigation team has been dispatched to the scene. Additional details will be made available as the investigation progresses.

12. Any other pertinent information:

- a. Continuous search being conducted.
- b. USAFE EOD team on scene.
- c. Medical and security from 16 AF and Spanish resources.

Gp-1.

84948

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~~ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954~~

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CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIALS
AFSSSG	024/66	3	3		MLB
REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET RD	

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38

FCA 908 FOR WHITE HOUSE ONLY

OO RUEPWW
ZNY SSSSS ZOV RUEPCR
T WHITEHOUSE LT COL CRSS ARMED FORCES AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT

OO RUEPCR
DE RUEAHQ 29 0200118
ZNY SSSSS
O 200117Z
FM CSAF
TO WHITE HOUSE LT COL CROSS ARMED FORCES AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT
O 192045Z
FM SAC
TO RUEKDA/JCS
RUEAHQ/CSAF
ZEN/DSTP
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
RUYGALB/CINCNOAD
RUCKHC/CINCLANT
BT

~~SECRET~~ IGSN 00527 NOFORN. JAN 66.
FOR JCS, USAF AFSPD, AFISI, AFISL-3, DSTP, CINCPAC, CINCNOAD,
CINCLANT. SUBJECT: LOSS OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ABOARD DOWNED
AIRCRAFT. INITIAL REPORT OF SUSPECTED COMPROMISE 1-66,
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, NC. THE MID-AIR COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT
CRASH OF A SAC B-52 AND KC-135 AIRCRAFT DURING REFUELING
OPERATIONS OVER SOUTHERN SPAIN AT 0925Z, 17 JAN 1966, HAS
RESULTED IN THE LOSS AND SUSPECTED COMPROMISE OF THE FOLLOWING
CLASSIFIED MATERIAL FROM THE B-52. 6B BOMBWG SECRET DCO 00104 JAN 66
NOFORN MESSAGE IS QUOTED IN PART FOR YOUR INFORMATION. QUOTE:

PAGE 2 RUEAHQ 29 ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

3. ONE SEALED CONTAINER WHICH CONTAINED SIOP-ESI INFORMATION
AS LISTED UNDER SORTIE 81 IN ATCH 018, APPENDIX 88, ANNEX A,
SAC OPORD 23-66, AND NATO INFORMATION AS LISTED IN VOL II,
SACM 55-4. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IN SEALED CONTAINER IS AS
FOLLOWS:

A. PILOT JACKET (137 PAGES) (TOP SECRET SIOP-ESI AND SECRET
NOFORN).

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLI 88-215

By inf NARA, Date 1-29-91

3. NAV JACKET (79 PAGES) (TOP SECRET SIOP-ESI).
 C. EWO JACKET (64 PAGES) (TOP SECRET SIOP-ESI).
 D. BOMB MISSILE JACKET (22 PAGES) (TOP SECRET SIOP-ESI).
 3. COUNTRY BOOKS - (SECRET, NOFORN), AS FOLLOWS:
 8-02-00 (CY NO 0105) 8-04-00 (CY NO 0103) 2-27-00 (CY NO 0152)
 2-54-00 (CY NO 0864) 2-45-00 (CY NO 0612) 2-52-00 (CY NO 0482)
 2-49-00 (CY NO 0243) 2-51-00 (CY NO 0253) 2-57-00 (CY NO 1108)
 2-53-00 (CY NO 1029) 2-44-00 (CY NO 0128) 2-46-00 (CY NO 1117)
 2-57-00 (CY NO 0776) 2-36-00 (CY NO 0984) 2-21-00 (CY NO

PAGE 3 RUEAHQ 29 ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN 0778)

2-22-00 (CY NO 0920) 8-91-00 (CY NO 0106) 8-90-00 (CY NO 0152)
 2-56-00 (CY NO 1069)
 F. BACK-UP CHARTS - (SECRET SIOP-JN4 - NR 31, JN9-NR 56, JN10 - NR 55, JN 21 - NR 76, JN 22, NR 77).
 G. T.O. 1B-52C-25-2 (CY NO 924) ((3:435, RESTRICTED DATA).
 H. T. O. 1B-52C-30-1A (CY NO 809) (SECRET, RESTRICTED DATA).
 3. FOUR QUICK REACTION ENVELOPES, CONTAINING INFORMATION AS FOLLOWS:
 PILOTS FLIMSY (128 PAGES) (SECRET)
 CO-PILOTS FLIMSY (30 PAGES) (SECRET)
 NAVIGATORS FLIMSY (103 PAGES) (SECRET/NOFORN)
 EWO FLIMSY (59 PAGES) (SECRET)
 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN COMMUNICATBMNS KIT ISSUED SEPARATELY IS AS FOLLOWS:
 A. SACM 100-24, VOL II (CONFIDENTIAL)
 B. EXTRACTS FROM NORAD MANUAL 101-2, ATCH 2, CHAPTER 11, TABLE 12: PARA 2.2 (SECRET), 2.4 (CONF), 2.6 (CONF), 9.1 (CONF), 9.2 (CONF), 5.1 (SECRET), AND 11.2 (SECRET).

PAGE 4 RUEAHQ 29 ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

C. EXTRACTS FROM MANUAL CINCPAC J61-2330: PARA 1, CHAPTER III (SECRET), PARA 3, CHAPTER III (SECRET), PARA 8, CHAPTER III (SECRET)
 D. SAC DESIGNATOR FOR RECOVERY DURING SCATER (SECRET). GP-3. UNQUOTE. FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING STATUS OF THE ABOVE MATERIAL AND A LISTING OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ON BOARD KC-135 AIRCRAFT WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, SECRET ZIPPO MSG 0096, JUST RECEIVED FROM 16AF INDICATES CMF CONTAINER HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AND DESTROYED BY FIRE. GP-3.
 BT

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

NNNN

NAVAL MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE
O 191917
FM USS LUCE

TO JNAC SANDIA BASE
CINCLANFLT
COMCRUDESLANT
COMCRUDESFLOT SIX
COMDESPIN EIGHT

CNO
JCS
ASST SECDEF FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ASST SECDEF FOR ATOMIC ENERGY
EOO PAC
BUJOC
BUJOPS
NAVAERIAL PAC KIRTLAND AFB
DAS
COMNAV
HQ 7TH ARMY
SECNAV
NAV JET

~~SECRET~~

BUMPS FOR CODE FWAM-4
BUDOCKS FOR CODE D500
NUCLEAR WEAPON ACCIDENT REPORT
RCS (AR) 382
~~FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~

INST 8110.168

1. 191922Z

2. IN PORT MAYPORT, FLA, BERTH D-1

3. ONE MK 45 TERRIER WARHEAD

4. NONE

DECLASSIFIED

Authority Group 4 and NLS 88-217
By isg NARS, Date 2-20-80
11-23-88

75...ACT

03 34 04 40 41 07 FP BNR

1/R-HANDLE AS RESTRICTED DATA IN FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. SECTION 144B
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954

CONTROL NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGE	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
C191917/1/TI/LD	1		2	2031Z 19 JAN	191910Z JAN 66

PRESERVATION COPY

ADVANCE COPY
NFP arrived at 191619 EST.
Ship getting underway away from

Copy to
Sec Nav
Chas Sec Nav
002
09A
03
33

LIS DIV

FS 39

NAVAL MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

NAVY DEPARTMENT

5. SHIPBOARD

6. HANDLING

7. MISSILE DROPPED EIGHT FEET

8. NEGATIVE

9. NO RADIATION HAZARD

10. WARHEAD HAS TWO INCH DEEP DENT, APPROX ONE FOOT LONG; IN MIDSECTION.

12. MISSILE MATING RING PARTED WHILE ON RAIL OVER MAGAZINE. MISSILE DROPPED INTO MAG CAUSING DENT IN WARHEAD. WARHEAD DOES NOT APPEAR RUPTURED.

13. REQUEST EOD TEAM, ASSIST IN REMOVAL OF WARHEAD.

14. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

GP-4

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CONTROL NO.

C1903071

PAGE

OF

PAGE

2

2

TIME OF RECEIPT

DATE TIME GROUP

191910Z

NMCC CWO

19 JAN 66 17 48Z

NMB245 HQA748

OO RUEKDA

DE RUEAHQ 109 2191721

ZNR UUUUU

O 191720Z

FM SAC COMM CTR OFFUTT AFB NEB

TO AIR STAFF OASD-DA

BT

UNCLAS FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO BRIG GEN
LIEBMAN. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIBED REPLY TO PART III, SECRET
FRD DEF 1972 FROM ATSD(AE) DATE-TIME 190100Z INFORMATION
RECEIVED BY TELECON FROM 16TH AF DXI. PASSED BY COL
COLEMAN, DXI, HQ SAC

QUOTE

THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE SPANISH PRESS,
17-19 JANUARY, WITH PHOTO COVERAGE OF SCENE IN LATER
ISSUES. HOWEVER, STORIES DID NOT CARRY CRITICAL COMMENTS
AND ARE BEING TREATED SIMPLY AS AN UNUSUAL NEWS EVENT.

PAGE 2 RUEAHQ 109 UNCLAS

AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPORT SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE
IS OF THE OPINION THAT COVERAGE HAS REACHED ITS PEAK AND
WILL NOW DECLINE. STRAIGHT ACCOUNTS APPEARED ON INSIDE
PAGES OF THE 18 JANUARY ISSUES OF THE PARIS EDITION OF THE
NEW YORK TIMES AND TRIBUNE. ISSUES OF 19 JANUARY
DID NOT CARRY ANY REFERENCE TO THE ACCIDENT. FILMS FROM
ACCIDENT SCENE HAVE APPEARED ON SPANISH NATIONAL TV,
AND ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED OVER SPANISH RADIO AND
ARE GETTING NO CRITICAL COMMENT. STORIES FROM AMERICAN
NEWS BUREAUS IN MADRID HAVE DIMINISHED APPRECIABLY.
REPRESENTATIVES OF UPI AND THE LONDON DAILY MAIL
HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON THE SCENE THIS DATE." UNQUOTE

BT

NNNN

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

DBO
ADD
CLOC
STEAR Desk
CSES
JIS
DIR J-3
NWSE
DIA
ESD/PA
SRLDR
DRP " "

3. 135-4429AA JVJ ZM 678VV XDA 335VV BN2 111

ITQBN 10 191633

ZVY SSSSS

O 19/1633Z RUCSC ZFF4

FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEAHQ/CSAF

RUWMFNA/DNS KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUTHNF/DEPUTY TIG USAF NORTON AFB CALIF

RUCSC/SAC

RUCVAA/2AF BARKSDALE AFB LA

RUETH3/8AF WESTOVER AFB MASS

RUEBBAA/AFSC

RUCDSQ/AFLC

RUGNH/SAAMA KELLY AFB TEXAS

RUMFNA/AFSWC KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUMGNK/OCAMA TINKER AFB OKLA

RUMHHL/OCAMA HILL AFB UTAH

RUCVSK/SAC OTSL CARSWELL AFB TEXAS

RUCVHV/42AD BLYTHEVILLE AFB ARKANSAS

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49/60

RECEIVED
19 JAN 18 5 32
JAF COMMAND POST

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 88-220

By 20 NARA Date 2-11-91

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AFHO 0-3098

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

RUETSR/822AD TURNER AFB GA

BT

~~SECRET FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA/NO FOREIGN DIS~~ 09063, JAN
66. FOR CSAF/AFISS AND AFSSS-AE; DNS/AFINS; AFSC/SCIZ; AFLC/MCASS;
SAAMA/SAWMT; AFSWC/STVN AND INFO SACLO; ODAMA/DOYS; SAC/CGSDN
AND INFO D74E; 2AF AND 8AF/DS; 42AD AND 822AD/DS. REPORT OF
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT (BROKEN ARROW); SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NBR 2.
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (SEE AFR 127-4).

REFERENCE SEC DEF MSG DEF 1972 FROM ATSD (AE). SUBJECT:

2-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT ON SOUTHEAST SPANISH COAST, 17 JAN.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS FURNISHED:

A. ONE WEAPON APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS ON SHORE IN A

PAGE 2 RUTQSN 10 ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN~~

TRUCK GARDENING AREA. NO HABITATIONS IN IMMEDIATE

VICINITY (38)95 :CHUTE DEPLOYED ON IMPACT. WEAPON DID

NOT BREAK UP. NO RADIATION AFFECTS IN AREA.

B. ANOTHER WEAPON LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES NORTH-

WEST OF FIRST IN A VEGETABLE GARDEN WITHIN PUEBLO PALAMARES.

PILOT CHUTE DEPLOYED ON IMPACT. WEAPON BADLY BROKEN UP.

SECONDARY EXPOSED. PIT NOT LOCATED AND APPARENTLY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE H.E. RECOVERED. ALPHA IN
GENERAL AREA OF IMPACT MEASURED AT 5000 COUNTS PER
MINUTE WITH A MAXIMUM OF 185,000 CPM IN IMMEDIATE
VICINITY OF WEAPON REMNANTS. BITS OF WEAPON COMPONENTS
READ IN EXCESS OF TWO MILLION CPM. REMOVAL OF ALL
REMANANTS OF WEAPON UNDERWAY. VEGETABLES IN CONTAMINATED
AREA BEING SOUGHT AND WILL BE DESTROYED. DECONTAMINATION
WILL BE EFFECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 33-110A-8.

C. OTHER WEAPON LOCATED ABOUT ONE MILE WEST OF
PUEBLO PALAMAREA IN AN UNINHABITED AREA. WEAPON
CONDITION SIMILAR TO ABOVE. PORTION OF PIT HAS BEEN
RECOVERED. AREA IS ROCKY AND SUPPORTS NO VEGETATION.
DETERMINATION OF DECONTAMINATION REQUIREMENTS IS UNDER-
PAGE 3 RUTQBN 13 ~~SECRET~~ NO FOREIGN
DAY.

D. ALL AREAS WHERE WEAPONS OR COMPONENTS LOCATED
ARE UNDER GUARD.

E. REMAINING WEAPON STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. SEARCH
IS CONTINUING.

F. THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE SPANISH

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

PRESS 17-19 JAN, WITH PHOTO COVERAGE OF SCENE IN LATER
ISSUES. HOWEVER, STORIES DO NOT CARRY CRITICAL
COMMENT AND ARE BEING TREATED SIMPLY AS AN UNUSUAL
NEWS EVENT. AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPORT
SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE IS OF THE OPINION THAT COVERAGE
HAS REACHED ITS PEAK AND WILL NOW DECLINE. STRAIGHT
ACCOUNTS APPEARED ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE 18 JAN
ISSUES OF THE PARIS EDITION OF NY TIMES AND TRIBUNE.
ISSUES OF 19 JAN DID NOT CRY ANY REFERENCE TO THE
ACCIDENT. FILM FROM ACCIDENT SCENE HAS APPEARED ON
SPANISH NATIONAL TV AND ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED
OVER SPANISH RADIO, AGAIN WITH NO CRITICAL COMMENT.
QUERIES FROM AMERICAN NEWS BUREAUS IN MADRID HAVE
DIMINISHED APPRECIABLY. REPRESENTATIVES OF UPI AND
PAGE 4 RUTEN 10 ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN~~
THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON THE
SCENE THIS DATE.

G. GENERALLY SPEAKING THE CRASH SITE AREA IS LOCATED
IN A SPARSELY-POPULATED, REMOTE AREA OF SPAIN.

F. PARAGRAPHS A THROUGH E IS A DIRECT QUOTATION OF

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

A LETTER FROM GENERAL BECK TO CINCSAC, HAND-CARRIED
TO THIS HEADQUARTERS FROM THE CRASH SITE. PARAGRAPHS
F AND G ARE AN EVALUATION MADE BY HEADQUARTERS SIX-
TEENTH AIR FORCE.

1. CAPTAIN ROSS C COX, 16AF DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY,
EXT 3445 OR 3113. REPORTED 1AW AFR 127--4, PARA
17A(2).

GP-1 APPLIES.

BT

NNNN

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THIS FORM MAY BE USED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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42

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FOR NMCC/MC
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1 19 08 04Z

E606 /CS169/19/

PP RUEKDA

DE RUCSBB 205 0190136

ZNY SSSSS

P 190135Z

FM SAC

TO RUEKDA/NMCC

RUEKDA/JCS

RUEAHQ/AIR FORCE COMMAND POST

P 182025Z ZFD

FM 16AF TORREJON AB SPAIN

TO RUEAHQ/CSAF

RUWMFNA/DNS KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUWHNF/DEPUTY TIG USAF NORTON AFB CALIF

RUCSC/SAC

RUWGAA/2AF BARKSDALE AFB LA

RUEADH/8AF WESTOVER AFB MASS

RUEBBAA/AFSC ANDREWS AFB MARYLAND

RUCDSQ/AFLC

RUWGNH/SAAMA KELLY AFB TEX

ACT: J3-8

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-3 J4-3 J5-2 SACS-5 NMCC-1 NWSE-1 SECDEF-7 ASD/PA-1
AE-1 DIA-15 W/HOUSE-3 ST-1 CSA-2 CNO-2 CMCP7 FILE-1 (64) GB/VB

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ 05-79

By isf NARA, Date 11-13-06

1 OF 4

FILE COPY

BUNDY-SMITH
BATOR
BOYDLER
BOYDLE
CHASE
COOPER
JESSUP
JENNINGS
KERRY
KOWSE
MOORE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

RUWMFNA/AFSWC KIRTLAND AFB NMEX

RUWGNK/OCAMA TINKER AFB OKLA

RUWHHL/00AMA HILL AFB UTAH

RUWGSK/SAC OTSL CARSWELL AFB TEX

RUWGHU/42 AD BWYTHEILLE AFB ARK

RUCQSL/822AF TURNER AFB GA

BT

~~SECRET~~ FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA AEC ACT 1954. FROM 16AF

DS 09005 JAN 66. CSAF FOR AFIS & AFSSS-AE; DNS FOR AFINS; AFSC
FOR SCIZ, AFLC FOR MCASS, SAAMA FOR SAWMT; AFSWC FOR SWVN, INFO
SACLO, 00AMA FOR 00YS, SAC FOR DOSDN; INFO DM4E, 2AF, 8AF
FOR DS. 42AD FOR DS, 822AD FOR DS. SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT OF
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT (BROKEN ARROW) REPORT DELAYED DUE TO LACK OF ON
SCENE COMMUNICATIONS. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (SPECIAL HANDLING
REQUIRED: SEE AFR 127-4) A. 17/0922Z JAN 66 SADDLE ROCK AIR REF-
UELING AREA, SPAIN COORDINATES 37°14'N/0°14'9W APPROXIMATE CENTER OF
WRECKAGE ON GROUND, WRECKAGE COVERS APPROXIMATELY 16 SQUARE MILES.
B. 4 [REDACTED] SERIAL NUMBERS UNKNOWN W/R. DAMAGE UNKNOWN
3 LOCATED DAMAGE UNKNOWN.

6.2(a)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

- C. B-52G; KC135A
- S. 68 BOMB WING, 8AF, SAC, SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, NC.
- E. "CHROME DOME" REFUELING
- F. B-52 COLLIDED WITH KC-135 DURING AIR REFUELING. BOTH AIRCRAFT DESTROYED. FOUR B-52 CREWMEN HOSPITALIZED. SEVEN BODIES RECOVERED. THREE WEAPONS ACCOUNTED FOR THIS TIME. CONTINUOUS SEARCH BEING CONDUCTED.
- G. MID AIR COLLISION ("ACTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE")?
- H. NONE
- I. MHU 20C CLIPIN
- J. NO ASSISTANCE NEEDED AT THIS TIME. USAF EOD TEAM ON SCENE
USAF EOD TEAM FROM SANDIA ON SCENE. MEDICAL AND SECURITY FROM
16AF AND SPANISH RESOURCES.
- K. UNKNOWN.
- L. UNKNOWN.
- M. YES, JOINT STATEMENT APPROVED BY USIS, DOD STATE DEPT. RELEASED 2145 17 JAN 66 TO UPI, AP, REUTERS, ABC STAR AND STRIPES
A B-52 BOMBER FROM THE 68TH BOMB WING, SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB,
NORTH CAROLINA AND A KC-135 TANKER FROM THE 910TH AIR REFUELING
SQUADRON, BERGSTROM AFB, TEXAS, CRASHED TODAY SOUTHWEST OF CAR-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

TAGENA, SPAIN, DURING SCHEDULED AIR OPERATIONS. THERE ARE RE-
PORTS OF SOME SURVIVORS. AN AIR FORCE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM
HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE
MADE AVAILABLE AS THE INVESTIGATION PROGRESSES.

N. NO

O. ROSS C. COX, CAPT, DSG, 3445/3113.

P. REPORT IAW AFR 127-4 PARA 17A(2) ATTACHMENT 4,6.

BT

NNNN

4 OF 4

57879

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

18300

44

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY

MAR 30 7 34 PM '66

83
Origin

55
Info

ACTION: Amembassy MADRID
INFO: Amembassy PARIS
Amembassy LONDON
POLAD CINCLANT
USAFE

1240
4905
5753

MADRID FOR EMBASSY AND JUSMG
PARIS FOR JAMES
LONDON FOR USNAVEUR

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ/RAC DS-20
By id, NARA, Date 2-26-07

FROM STATE AND DEFENSE

NOFORN

Overflights Spanish territory carrying nuclear weapons were suspended by confidential Wheeler to Munoz Grandes letter of January 22. Because arrangements for overflights of Austria, Switzerland, France or Morocco with nuclear weapons for various reasons not feasible, resumption such overflights of Spain extremely important not only in maintaining our tactical alert and dispersal plans but also in providing nuclear logistics support to forces in Mediterranean area. Restoration US overflights could have favorable influence elsewhere in world where such flights involved. Early approach Spanish authorities is desirable to seek resumption such flights through Spain.

Since suspension was instituted on basis oral request from Munoz Grandes, may be possible resumption flights with certain adjustments could be arranged through same channel. Would appreciate your comments on timing such approach and on following suggestions

Drafted by: OSD:ISA:ColWMSmyser

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

Walter J. Stoessel

Clearance:

WE - Mr. Anderson RPM - Mr. Garnett G/PM - Mr. George
OSD/ISA - Mr. Finkelstein AF - Col. Dupont CNO - Capt. Frazee
Mr. Brones DASA - Gen. Donnelly JCS - Capt. Collier
(informed)

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

for possible adjustments. Would like views on timing above approach in ^{three} light current request on ~~XXXXXXXX~~ squadrons (DEPTEL 1227) and in relation recovery B-52 weapon.

We of course wish maintain greatest possible flexibility but following adjustments in flights with nuclear weapons, although undesirable, could be suggested progressively as basis obtaining relaxation of present overflight restrictions:

1. Keep to minimum overflights of Spain and landings at joint air and naval facilities with nuclear weapons.

2. Modify or specify flight routes for which tactical and logistic flights would be permitted.

3. Limit overflights to logistic air transport of nuclear weapons and emergency dispersals in periods of tension.

4. In event foregoing not acceptable as basis for resumption of overflights, hold options open and advise. We would not wish to limit resumption to logistic overflights only.

We would assure Spanish authorities that in-flight refueling operations involving aircraft carrying nuclear weapons would not be conducted over Spanish territory except in event of extreme in-flight emergency.

Overflight ~~Straitx~~ of GIMbraltar separate subject not to be discussed in connection mainland flights. We would consider ^{question of} flying ~~Straitx~~ only if above approach would be unsuccessful. END.

GP-3

RUSK

Note: Handled / Lmatis per S/S-O~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM Department of State

45

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

49

Action

FROM : MADRID

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

55

ACTION : SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 1226

NJ 88-142

Info

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MARCH 18

By 148 NARA, Date 8-15-88

DEPTTEL 1159

17068

MARCH 18, 1966, 12:57 PM

LIMDIS

COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PREPARED CONTINGENCY STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED AFTER COORDINATION AND COMPLETION OF SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS.

QUOTE THE FOURTH AND FINAL WEAPON FROM THE JANUARY 17 CRASH NEAR PALOMARES SPAIN HAS BEEN RECOVERED TODAY AND IS ENROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME. THE CASING WAS INTACT AND NO RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY INTO THE COASTAL WATERS HAS OCCURRED. THE WEAPON WAS LOCATED ON MARCH 16 IN 2500 FEET OF WATER, APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES OFF SHORE BY THE SUBMERSIBLE ALVIN. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THAT TIME TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE OBJECT AS THE MISSING WEAPON. THE RECOVERY OF THIS WEAPON BRINGS TO A CLOSE THE SEARCH PHASE OF THE OPERATION. ALL WRECHAGE FRAGMENTS AND ASSOCIATED AIRCRAFT MATERIAL OF INTEREST TO THE US HAVE NOW BEEN LOCATED AND RECOVERED. UNQUOTE.

POSSIBLE ADDITION TO STATEMENT ASSURING RECOVERY IS MADE AFTER DRUMS HAVE BEEN LOADED ABOARD SHIP.

QUOTE THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF CONTAMINATED SOIL AND VEGETATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THESE MATERIALS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED IN STEEL DRUMS ABOARD A UNITED STATES VESSEL AND WILL BE BURIED IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DISPOSAL SITE NEAR AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE AMERICAN ENCAMPMENT NEAR PALOMARES IS BEING DISMANTLED AND THE PERSONNEL RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL DUTY STATION. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE SPANISH PEOPLE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THIS TASK. I BELIEVE OUR GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO LEAVE THE PALOMARES AREA AS IT WAS BEFORE. UNQUOTE. DUKE
BT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, USIA 1:25 P.M., 3-18-66.
ADVANCE DELIVERY TO S/S-O AT 1:10 P.M., 3-18-66.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED
WHCA

46

1966 MAR 1 21 34

EHA597
OO RUEHEX
DE RUEHC 893 0602125
ZNR UUUUU
O 012122Z
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO WHITE HOUSE ATTN MR BUNDY
O 012000Z MAR 66
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1091
STATE GRNC
BT
UNCLAS MARCH 1

PASS DOD, USIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STORY CARRIED BY MADRID AFTERNOON DAILY
INFORMACIONES MARCH 1:

ACCIDENT OF LAST JANUARY 17 RIGHT OVER PALOMARES IN ALMERIA
IN WHICH LONG-RANGE JET AND FUELING PLANE WERE DESTROYED AS
RESULT OF COLLISION DURING REFUELING MISSION IN FLIGHT HAS
PRODUCED NOT A LITTLE SPECULATION AND VAGUE REPORTS, MOSTLY
WITHOUT BASIS IN FACT. IN ORDER TO CLARIFY REAL SITUATION,
WE PAID CALL ON CHAIRMAN OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD, DON JOSE
MARIA NAVASCUES, A SCIENTIST OF UNIVERSAL FAME WHO REPLIED
OPENLY TO ALL QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO HIM.

PAGE TWO RUDSRD 004LL UNCLAS

"NOT A SINGLE CASE OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION WORTHY OF THE
NAME HAS BEEN REGISTERED IN PALOMARES REGION OR ITS SURROUNDINGS."
MR. OTERO NAVASCUES STATED AT THE START "IT IS ABSOLUTELY
UNTRUE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INJURIES THROUGHOUT THAT ZONE
OF TYPE DESCRIBED BY SOME INDIVIDUAL WHO PROBABLY SOUGHT TO
GAIN SOME NOTORIETY, PRESUMING AN UNDETECTED CONTAMINATION
FROM EXAMINATIONS TO WHICH HE VOLUNTARILY SUBMITTED".

WAS THERE SOME KIND OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN PALOMARES ZONE?
"THERE HAS BEEN NONE NOR COULD THERE BE ANY", REPLIED CHAIRMAN
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD, WHO STRESSED WHEN ANSWERING OTHER
QUESTION THAT ALL THE TECHNICAL MATERIAL NEEDED FOR
INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY
SECURITY MEASURES TO AVOID ANY RISK WAS
TAKEN TO PALOMARES ZONE BY THIS BOARD.

SEVENTEEN SPANISH SCIENTIST AND TECHNICIANS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD ARE WORKING DAILY IN DISTRICT TO CARRY OUT APPROPRIATE LABORS REQUIRED TO DELIMIT COMPLETELY THE ZONES AFFECTED BY THE PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM 235 DISPERSED AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT".

PAGE THREE RUDSRD 004LL UNCLAS

OTERO NAVASCUES POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE POTENTIALLY 2,000 PERSONS EXPOSED TO EFFECTS OF RADIATION AND THAT NUMBER OF THOSE EXAMINED FOR EVIDENCE OF SOME EXTERNAL CONTAMINATION IS AROUND 1,800, THE RESULT BEING PRACTICALLY NEGATIVE. TO DATE WHAT IS TECHNICALLY DESCRIBED AS REFINED LABORATORY PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN UTILIZED AND THESE HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT NOT A SINGLE PERSON AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION OR THE PERSONNEL OF THE TEAMS OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD HAS RECEIVED A DANGEROUS DOSE OF ANY KIND.

"THERE HAS BEEN AREA OF SIX HECTARES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED AT RATE OF MORE THAN 60,000 COUNTS PER MINUTE, A COUNT WHICH IN UNITED STATES IS AVERAGE OF WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS TOTALLY SAFE LIMIT", CHAIRMAN OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD CONTINUED. "THE EARTH ON THE SURFACE HAS BEEN ALL PROVISIONALLY STORED TO BE TRANSFERRED LATER TO THE UNITED STATES. A TOTAL OF 3,000 CUBIC METERS OF EARTH, EQUIVALENT, TO 6,000 TONS, WILL BE TRANSPORTED."

OTERO NAVASCUES DENIED THAT ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OCCURRED. THE SAFETY DEVICES PERFECTED OVER THE YEARS BY MEANS OF INTENSE SECURITY TESTS HAVE PERMITTED THE UNITED STATES TO HANDLE, STORE AND TRANSPORT NUCLEAR WEAPONS DURING MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, WITHOUT ANY NUCLEAR DETONATION HAVING OCCURRED. SAFETY RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED IN EFFECT WIDELY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO HANDLE ANY ACCIDENT INVOLVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE PERMITTED THE SPREADING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.

PAGE FOUR RUDSRD 004LL UNCLAS

" RADIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF PALOMARES AREA," OTERO NAVASCUES CONTINUED "AND OF ITS HUMAN AND ANIMAL POPULATION, INCLUDING DETAILED LABORATORY STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY SPANISH AND AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE TO DATE OF A RADIO-ACTIVE DOSE ABOVE THE MAXIMUM TOLERABLE IN BODIES OF THOSE EXAMINED. IT CAN BE ASSURED THAT THERE IS NOT SLIGHTEST RISK IN EATING VEGETABLES WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED ON SALE IN MARKETS AND WHICH HAVE COME FROM THAT ZONE, OR IN EATING MEAT OR FISH OR DRINKING MILK FROM THE DAIRY CATTLE OF THE REGION". CHAIRMAN OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD SAID IN REPLY TO FINAL QUESTION:

" ALL MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT ZONES AFFECTED BY ACCIDENT OF JANUARY 17 ARE COMPLETELY CLEAN HAVE BEEN TAKEN. A QUANTITY OF VEGETABLES AND SOIL CONTAMINATED BY ACCIDENT IS BEING WITHDRAWN, SO IT CAN BE STATED THAT SECURITY OF ZONE ALREADY HAS BEEN GUARANTEED.

"THERE REMAINS PROBLEM OF SEARCH FOR THE FOURTH BOMB", HE CONCLUDED, " WHICH THE AMERICANS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN FINDING BECAUSE IT IS EXCEPTIONALLY MODER, HENCE, THE PRESENCE OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THAT COUNTRY IN THE ZONE."
(END TEXT).

PAGE FIVE RUDSRD 004LL UNCLAS

ALTHOUGH PAPER GAVE NO ATTRIBUTION, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS OTERO INTERVIEW WAS WITH SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE REPORTER. AP CARRYING MUCH ABBREVIATED VERSION OF EFE ACCOUNT.

ANOTHER MADRID AFTERNOONER, PUEBLO BANNER-HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE: "AMBASSADOR USA: 'FRAGA AND I WILL BATHE AT PALOMARES -THIS WEEK, ACCOMPANIED BY OUR RESPECTIVE CHILDREN' - NO DANGER OF RADIOACTIVITY". HEADLINES REFERRED TO SECOND PAGE STORY QUOTING AMBASSADOR AS SAYING, DURING LUNCHEON AT NEWSPAPER OFFICES FEBRUARY 28 AS GUEST OF DIRECTOR EMILIO ROMERO: "THIS WEEK, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MR. FRAGA, AND I, WITH OUR RESPECTIVE CHILDREN, WILL BATHE ON BEACH OF PALOMARES". STORY ADDS: "REGARDING ACCIDENT OF US NUCLEAR BOMBER IN ALMERIA, AMBASSADOR SAID THERE IS NO DANGER OF RADIOACTIVITY IN WATERS OF PALOMARES, WHERE LOST NUCLEAR DEVICE NOW BEING SOUGHT".

DUKE
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INCOMING-TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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CONTROL : 20424

RECD : FEBRUARY 25, 1966
7:33 A.M.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By MB, NARA, Date 8-15-88

FROM : MADRID

ACTION : SECSTATE PRIORITY 1054

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FEBRUARY 25

PASS AEC FOR SEABORG AND GENERAL CROWSON
FROM HALL AND LANGHAM

1. AS RESULT OF COMPROMISE ON 60,000 COUNTS AS LIMIT FOR
SOIL REMOVAL EARLY CLEAN-UP SITUATION HERE SEEMS TO BE
PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND MAY BE COMPLETE BY MARCH 15,
WITH REMOVAL COMPLETE BY MARCH 31.

2. REGARDING LONG-RANGE FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM SPANISH AEC TAKING
POSITION WHILE THEY AGREE THAT THERE MAY BE NO LONG-RANGE
HAZARD, IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONFIRM THE FACT BY
A STUDY PROGRAM THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF WHICH WILL
BE DETERMINED BY PROGRESSIVE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS.
THEY DESIRE TO INVESTIGATE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL POINTS:

A. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON UPTAKE AND RETENTION OF
PLUTONIUM BY REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF A POPULATION GROUP
POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO INHALATION OF A PLUTONIUM OXIDE AEROSOL;

B. TEMPORAL AND SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN PLUTONIUM AIR
CONCENTRATIONS ABOVE A PLUTONIUM OXIDE CONTAMINATED
AGRICULTURAL AREA DECONTAMINATED ACCORDING TO AGREED UPON
DECONTAMINATION LIMITS AND PROCEDURES;

C. CONTAMINATION LEVELS OF PRODUCE FROM A PLUTONIUM OXIDE
CONTAMINATED AREA SUBSEQUENT TO DECONTAMINATION AND,

D. TEMPORAL MIGRATION AND REDISTRIBUTION OF PLUTONIUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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-2- 1054, February 25 from Madrid

OXIDE IN SOIL, DECONTAMINATED BY DEEP PLOWING, AS A RESULT OF CONTINUED CULTIVATION AND WEATHERING. THEY ARE REQUESTING THAT WE SUPPLY NECESSARY AND RECIPROCAL INFORMATION, TECHNICAL ADVICE, EXCHANGE OF APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS MAY INVOLVE ABOUT \$100,000 IN EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS THE FIRST YEAR PLUS TRAVEL FOR THREE OR FOUR U.S. SPECIALISTS TO SPAIN. SPANISH AEC WILL PAY TRAVEL COSTS FOR THEIR SPECIALISTS VISITING THE U.S.

3. THE ARRANGEMENT WILL BE EXTENDED BEYOND ONE YEAR AS BOTH PARTIES AGREE AND BASED ON THE OBSERVATIONS DURING FIRST YEAR.

4. LETTERS WILL BE EXCHANGED TODAY BETWEEN HALL AND OTERO COVERING ABOVE POINTS.

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Handled as LINDIS pers/s-0

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONTROL: 21731

FROM: MADRID

RECD:

JAN 27, 1966, 3:15PM

ACTION: SECSTATE PRIORITY 903

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By ug, NARA, Date 8-15-88

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 27

1. THIS IS TO ADVISE OF NEW PROBLEM DEVELOPING RE FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE AT SITE OF AIR CRASH AS BOMB SEARCH MOVES FROM LAND TO SEA... EXTREME PRESSURE EMBASSY AND TORREJON BY VIRTUALLY EVERY IMPORTANT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT; THESE PRESSURES EXPECTED TO MOVE TO SITE, ALSO BEING RAPIDLY TRANSFERRED TO DOD AND STATE.

2. REASON IS THAT PRESS STOPPED AT WATER'S EDGE UNABLE LEARN MUCH OF SEA SEARCH WHILE US NAVY OPERATING UNDER DIRECTIVE NOT PERMIT ANY PRESS ABOARD SHIPS NOR CAN INFORMATION PERSONNEL TELL THEM ANYTHING.

3. THIS IN CONTRAST TO "LAND" SEARCH WHERE, DESPITE "NO COMMENT" POLICY 16TH AF INFO OFFICERS ON SPOT, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND TV, ABLE MOVE AROUND AREA AT WILL COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THEIR OWN WITH 16TH AF ASSISTING WITH TRANSPORT AROUND THE SCENE. THEY ABLE THIS WAY, AND THROUGH NUMEROUS SPANISH-SIDE LEAKS PIECE TOGETHER ESSENTIALLY CORRECT STORIES AND TV COVERAGE DESPITE TIGHT SECURITY AND LACK OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.

4. ALTHOUGH NUMBER PRESSMEN ON SCENE HAS DECLINED, INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC EQUIPMENT AND BUILDUP AT SEA HAS REKINDLED HIGH INTEREST; MANY PLANNING RETURN TO SCENE SHORTLY. WORD HAS GOTTEN AROUND BUILDING UP THEIR EXPECTATIONS THAT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, WILL BE BIG PUSH AT SEA WHEN THEY BELIEVE UNDERWATER EQUIPMENT WILL BE IN PLACE.

5. AT LEAST TWO OF THE MEDIA HAVE RECEIVED CABLES FROM THEIR OFFICES IN NEW YORK THAT A BATHESPHORE OR SOME TYPE OF

UNDERWATER RECOVERY DEVICE IS BEING SHIPPED TO THE SITE;

ALSO SEVERAL SAY THEY HAVE REPORTS EQUIPMENT BEING AIR SHIPPED VIA TORREJON AND REQUESTING PHOTO AND TV COVERAGE.

6. AP THIS MORNING CARRIED STORY CLAIMING MOUNTING CRITICISM US AND SPANISH SECRECY. SOME CONFUSION ALREADY WITH AFP NOW CARRYING REPORT THERE ARE "TWO" MISSING BOMBS IN THE WATER. AP THIS MORNING REPORTED, EVIDENTALLY BY ATTEMPTED VISUAL SIGHTING, TRIAL OF DEEP SEA DIVING BELL.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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-2- 903 January 27 FM Madrid

7. BELIEVE SCENE NOW SET FOR EXTREMELY STRAINED PRESS RELATIONS HERE AND AT THE SITE, WHICH MAY RESULT IN SOME INACCURATE AND MISLEADING SPECULATION UNDER EXISTING INFORMATION POLICY LIMITATIONS.

8. THE FOREGOING REPORTED IN ANTICIPATION DESIRABILITY OF REVIEWING CURRENT INFORMATION POLICY, DEPENDING ON WHETHER MISSING WEAPON RECOVERED NEXT DAY OR TWO. SHALL SUBMIT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. DUKE
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ADVANCE COPY TO S/S O 1/27/66, 3:39 P.M.

Note: Handled Linds per S/S-O

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* SUMMARY

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TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY (896)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 26

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

LOCAL PRESS

SPANISH DAILIES CONTINUED TO GIVE STORY HEAVY PLAY, WITH EMPHASIS ON "RETURN TO NORMALCY" IN RURAL REGION, CONTINUED SEARCH ACTIVITIES, COMPENSATION FOR FINANCIAL LOSSES, AND LACK OF SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS. MOST REPORTS REFER VAGUELY TO MISSING "DEVICES" OR "REMNANTS OF PLANES" WITHOUT MENTION OF NUCLEAR NATURE. ALL MADRID MORNING PAPERS HIGH-LIGHT PHOTOS IN DISPLAYS WHICH INCLUDE USAF CINC, GEN. HOLLOWAY, WHOSE VISIT TO SPAIN JANUARY 23-24 IS DESCRIBED FLATLY-AND FALSELY--AS RELATED TO ACCIDENT INQUIRY.

PAGE TWO RUFHDN 029LL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ABC AND ARIBA PICTURE HIM WITH CHIEF JUSMG IN CONFERENCE WITH SPANISH AIR MINISTER. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF COVERAGE BY LEADING DAILIES:

ABC--STORY OCCUPIES FULL PAGE UNDER HEADLINES: "FARMERS WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR LOSSES CAUSED BY AIR ACCIDENT. MORE THAN 1,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY TECHNICAL TEAMS. HUNDREDS OF SPECIALISTS COMB GROUND AND CONTINUE SEARCH FOR REMNANTS OF PLANES." TEXT INCLUDES THESE STATEMENTS: "EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVITY HAVE BEEN INSIGNIFICANT, ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE... SOME PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS, AFTER BEING EXAMINED TO BURN THEIR CLOTHING AND SHOES, AND ARE BEING ADVISED SIMPLY TO BATHE THOROUGHLY. RADIOACTIVITY UNITS INITIAL PHASE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VERY SLIGHT."

ARIBA--DEVOTES PAGE 8 TO TWO STORIES OF CONTRASTING TONES. FIRST HEADED: "TENDENCY TOWARD NORMALITY IN ZONE WHERE THE TWO AMERICAN PLANES FELL. FARMERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HABITUAL TASKS AND POPULACE RESUMES ITS ACTIVITIES."

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-, 896, JANUARY 26, FROM MADRID.

TECHNICAL TEAMS OF RESCUE AND INVESTIGATION CONTINUE RECOVERY OF REMNANTS OF LOST PLANES." SECOND HEADED: " PRECAUTION WITH OBJECTS AND CROPS." KEY LINES IN THIS

PAGE THREE RUFHDN 029LL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACCOUNT BY PYRESA AGENCY REPORTER SERAFIN ALONSO ARE:
"ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SOLDIERS AT THE AMERICAN CAMP, IN PRESENCE OF SOME FARM LABORERS, ATE LIMA BEANS AND TOMATOES FROM FIELDS, PEOPLE CONTINUED TO BE SKEPTICAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE MAYOR INFORMED US THAT THE HOUSE AND AREA NEXT TO THE PLACE WHERE ONE OF THE DEVICES WAS RETRIEVED HAVE BEEN PLACED IN QUARANTINE." STORY GOES ON TO SAY THAT WORKERS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBRIS RECOVERY "APPEAR TO BE HESITANT AND FEARFUL OF BEING CONTAMINATED."

YA--FRONT PAGE ARTICLE REPORTS RESTRICTIONS ON HARVESTING AND LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND MARKETING BUT ADDS: "NORMALITY IS RETURNING IN ALL THE AREA AS SHOWN FORCEFULLY BY FACT THAT GREAT NUMBER OF REPORTERS SENT BY AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS, FOREIGN AS WELL AS NATIONAL HAVE ABANDONED FIELD OF OPERATION. LIFE IS ASSUMING ITS NORMAL RHYTHM IN AREA TO THE POINT THAT SHEPHERDS AND FARM WORKERS HAVE BEEN RETURNING TO DAILY TASKS SINCE LAST THURSDAY."

PUEBLO--BACK PAGE BOX HEADED "ALMERIA: TWO DEVICES HAVE BEEN FOUND" SAYS TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ABOARD CRUISER AND TWO MINESWEEPERS OF US SIXTH FLEET HAVE DETECTED TWO "DEVICES"

PAGE FOUR RUFHDN 029LL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ON SEA BOTTOM ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM COAST. ADDS THAT US FROGMEN HAVE STARTED WORK OF RECOVERING DEVICES, "WHICH WILL BE TAKEN ABOARD A FRIGATE."

FOREIGN PRESS UPI MADRID BUREAU CHIEF STATHOS TOLD EMBOFF HE FILED STORY ATTRIBUTING TO FRENCH SOURCES REPORT THAT ON US, NOT SPANISH INITIATIVE--ALL SAC NUCLEAR-ARMED BOMBER FLIGHTS OVER SPANISH TERRITORY TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED SINCE ACCIDENT.

AP HAS NOT YET INTRODUCED ABOVE ANGLE ITS OUTPUT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW. BUREAU CHIEF MILKS SAYS EMPHASIS HIS SERVICE NOW

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-3-, 896, JANUARY 26, FROM MADRID.

ON EXPANDING USN ROLE IN SEARCH OPERATIONS AND FEATURE:
"ARE FRESH RIPE TOMATOES THE NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL WEAPON OF
THE US AIR FORCE?" LATTER STORY REPORTS US AIRMEN EATING
TOMATOES IN CRASH AREA TO QUELL SPANIARDS' FEARS.

COMMUNIST BROADCASTS

EMBASSY-MONITORED RADIO MOSCOW BROADCASTS IN SPANISH INCLUDED
FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

"FARM WORKERS IN ALMERIA ZONE, WHERE TWO AMERICAN PLANES
FELL JANUARY 17, HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED FROM SELLING PRODUCE
OR KILLING LIVESTOCK FOR SALE OF MEAT. THESE REPORTS CONTRADICT
OFFICIAL RELEASES, ACCORDING TO WHICH THERE IS NO DANGER OF

PAGE FIVE RUFHDN 029LL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN ZONE. THERE IS ALSO BAN ON
CARRYING OUT LABOR IN ZONE AFFECTED BY CATASTROPHE. APPARENTLY
ATOMIC BOMB OR BOMBS WHICH FELL IN SEA HAVE LETHAL RADIO-
ACTIVITY."

"SPANISH PRESS IS SILENT, HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A KIND
OF CORDON SANITAIRE IMPOSED BY THE AMERICANS IN COMPLICITY
WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES. THIS CONSPIRATORIAL SILENCE
REFLECTS FEAR OF SPANISH REACTION AGAINST AMERICAN BASES IN
SPAIN, A REACTION WHICH IS ALREADY FELT IN PALOMARES WHERE
FIELD WORKERS HAVE SHOUTED: 'DOWN WITH UNITED STATES!
YANKEES GO HOME! SIGNS OF RADIOACTIVITY HAVE BEEN DETECTED
IN CLOTHING OF SOME CIVIL GUARDS AND PERSONNEL
INVOLVED IN RECOVERY OPERATION. EVERYONE IS ASKING: 'AND IF
BOMBS HAD EXPLODED, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED?'"

RADIO PEKING, IN SPANISH BROADCAST AT 0930 LOCAL TIME
JANUARY 25, SAID: "SPANISH REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION-IN-
EXILE, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN ALGERIA, ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
DENOUNCING AMERICANS FOR STORING LARGE QUANTITIES OF ATOMIC
BOMBS IN SPAIN." BROADCAST LINKED "COMMUNIQUE" TO ACCIDNET.
DUKE
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NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 1/26/66, 4:20 P.M.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA 1/26/66, 4:30 P.M.

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FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 388 JAN 25
FM MADRID SIGNED DUKE.

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

"LINDIS"

1. FOLLOWING RESUME CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO AMBASSADOR FROM EMBOFFS RE SITUATION CRASH AREA.
2. LOCAL POPULATION SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE RE HEALTH HAZARDS AND COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES. NO PANIC NOR OPEN RESENTMENT NOTED. US MILITARY, NATURALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATION MAY NOT APPRECIATE FULLY LOCAL SENSITIVITY CLAIMS QUESTIONS.
3. CLAIMS PROCEDURES IN PROCESS FORMULATION BUT MOVING SLOWLY. FARMERS WHO UNABLE TO WORK FIELDS OR TO MARKET CROPS RUMORED BE "RADIOACTIVE" ARE ENCOUNTERING ECONOMIC STRAIN. USAF CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROCESSED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND GENEROUSLY.
4. SPANISH AIR FORCE GENERAL RAMIRO PASCUAL RECENTLY APPOINTED SPANISH AUTHORITY ON SCENE MIGHT PROVIDE KEY TO NECESSARY SPANISH-AMERICAN COORDINATION ON CRUCIAL LOCAL PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY CLAIMS. WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF COMMANDER 16TH AIR FORCE BE GIVEN AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES TO EXPEDITE CLAIMS, AND COOPERATE FULLY GENERAL RAMIRO PASCUAL RE COMMUNITY RELATIONS. SUBSTANCE THIS REPORT BEING DISCUSSED WITH JS JUSMG.

WITH JUSMG.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

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Info
CONTROL: 17725

RECD: JANUARY 22, 1966 9/26AM

FROM: MADRID

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 871

~~SECRET~~ JANUARY 22

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DEPT PASS DOD

REF EMBTELS 867 AND 869; DEPTTEL 834

1. FOLLOWING IS ROUNDUP DEVELOPMENTS RELATED B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT SINCE LAST REPORTS (EMBTELS 867 AND 869):

A. SHORTLY AFTER NOON JANUARY 21 FONMIN TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY "EXTREME CONCERN" OF CHIEF STATE UPON READING UPI STORY CABLED BY SPANISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON (TEXT ABOUT SAME AS THAT QUOTED DEPTTEL 834). FONMIN SAID HE SENDING SAGAZ TO DISCUSS QUESTION.

B. SAGAZ ARRIVED DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE AGITATION. USING SUCH TERMS AS "DEEP CONCERN", "EMERGENCY" AND "CRISIS", HE COMPLAINED PARTICULARLY ABOUT PASSAGES IN UPI STORY CONCERNING ALLEGED ATTITUDE OF "US DIPLOMATS" AND THAT PURPORTING DESCRIBE COMPLAINTS OF SPANISH INHABITANTS OF ACCIDENT AREA AGAINST GOS FOR PERMITTING OVERFLIGHT NUCLEAR-ARMED USAF AIRCRAFT. SAGAZ DID NOT FAIL RING IN POTENTIAL BLOW TO TOURISM OF RADIATION SCARE. HE ENDED PRESENTATION SAYING THESE REVELATIONS HAD EFFECT LIBERATING GOS TO TAKE INDEPENDENT ACTION ON ITS OWN AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY CONVENING PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FULL DISCLOSURE ALL FACTS AND GOS POSITION. AMBASSADOR REFUTED UPI ATTRIBUTION TO US DIPLOMATS, MENTIONED IMMINENT RETURN CHIEF JUSMG FROM SCENE ACCIDENT WITH UP-TO-DATE ACCOUNT OF CIRCUMSTANCES THERE FOR OUR INFORMATION AND THAT OF GOS, AND REFERRED TO DESIRABILITY REMAINING CALM AND CONTINUING MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS US-SPANISH COLLABORATION IN DEALING WITH DELICATE SITUATION OF

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 05-20

By isl NARA, Date 2-26-07~~SECRET~~

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-2-871, January 22, from: Madrid

EQUAL AND COMMON CONCERN TO BOTH GOVTS. IN THIS MANNER, AMBASSADOR SUCCEEDED IN QUIETING SAGAZ, WHO AT END OF CONVERSATION AGREED AWAIT FURTHER REPORTS FROM SCENE.

C. UPON RETURN FROM ALMERIA, CHIEF JUSMG REPORTED TO AMBASSADOR: FOURTH BOMB STILL MISSING AND PROBABILITY WAS IT DROPPED INTO SEA; USN MINE SWEEPERS ABOUT TO BEGIN SEA SEARCH OPERATIONS WITH HELP TWO LOCAL FISHERMEN WHO REPORTED HAVING SEEN OBJECT WITH PARACHUTE DROP INTO WATER; RECOVERY OF FRAGMENTS WRECKAGE ON LAND CONTINUING AND ALL LEADS AS TO POSSIBLE LOCATION FOURTH BOMB BEING FOLLOWED UP; AREAS OF RADIATION ON LAND HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, ARE SMALL AND NOW CLOSED OFF; WATER TRUCKS BEING BROUGHT UP TO LEACH THESE SPOTS; CROPS AND LIVESTOCK POSSIBLY AFFECTED BEING BOUGHT UP; MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS BEING MADE OF PERSONS IN AREA WHO COULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED; COMMUNITY LEADERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC BEING ASSURED WITH EFFECT THAT WHILE THERE SOME NATURAL FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY AMONG PEOPLE THERE NO EVIDENCE OF MASS FRIGHT OR PANIC; SPANISH IN AREA, INCLUDING CIVIL AUTHORITIES, GUARDIA CIVIL AND SPANISH NUCLEAR SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL TEAMS, COOPERATING TO FULL IN THESE EFFORTS. GENERAL DONOVAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN AREA, INCLUDING UPI, PARIS MATCH, BRITISH PRESS, CBS-TV AND POSSIBLY FRENCH TV CREWS.

D. AMBASSADOR CALLED IN LOCAL UPI BUREAU CHIEF STATHOS, FIRMLY REFUTED ATTITUDE "US DIPLOMATS" AS ATTRIBUTED BY UPI FILE AND CHALLENGED HIM ON SOURCE HIS INFORMATION THIS POINT. STATHOS APPEARED SHAKEN, STATED HE HAD OBTAINED INFORMATION ON THIS POINT "AT THIRD HAND" AND REPEATEDLY APOLOGIZED FOR FILING STORY WITHOUT CHECKING WITH EMBASSY (SEE F BELOW).

E. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS SUBPARAGRAPHS C AND D ABOVE, AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED FONOFF (ABOUT 1930). GAVE SAGAZ SUMMARY AND OFFERED SEND EMBOFF TO GIVE FULL REPORT, WHICH SAGAZ QUICKLY ACCEPTED. SAGAZ LISTENED INTENTLY AND SHOWED KEENEST INTEREST IN ACCOUNT STATHOS ADMISSION HE HAD NOT RECEIVED INFORMATION RE "US DIPLOMATS" ATTITUDE FROM EMBASSY, BUT FROM OTHER SOURCE. WE ASSURED SAGAZ WE OPEN TO ANY SPANISH SUGGESTIONS ON HOW BEST HANDLE SITUATION BUT REITERATED BELIEF WE SHOULD CONTINUE WORK IN CLOSE CONCERT. SAGAZ INDICATED CONCURRENCE, SAID HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE FOR TIME BEING AND APPEARED CALM, ALBEIT OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED. EMBOFF HAD IMPRESSION SAGAZ WANTED GET STATHOS INCIDENT PARTICULARLY CLEAR TO REPORT TO SUPERIORS.

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-3-871, January 22, from: Madrid

F. MORNING JANUARY 22, STATHOS UPI TELEPHONED MABASSADOR TO REITERATE APOLOGIES, OFFER MAKE RETRIBUTION AND DISCLAIM ANY ATTEMPT "MAKE TROUBLE". HE ADDED THAT HE NOW BELIEVED HE "HAD BEEN HAD" BY HIS SPANISH INFORMATION SOURCES (OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED) FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND EXPRESSED APPREHENSION ABOUT HIS POSITION IN SPAIN.

G. CHIEF JUSMG GAVE REPORT OF DEVELOPMENTS AT ACCIDENT SITE TO VP MUNOZ-GRANDES ALSO MORNING JANUARY 22. MUNOZ-GRANDES DID NOT APPEAR DEEPLY PERTURBED BUT HE DID REQUEST THAT FLIGHTS OF NUCLEAR-ARMED USAF BOMBERS OVER SPAIN BE STOPPED. (CHIEF JUSMG REPORTING THIS REQUEST THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.)

6.2
(a) [REDACTED] MERELY
ACKNOWLEDGED INFORMATION AND MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

H. AMBASSADOR ALSO IN CONTACT WITH FONOFF JANUARY 22 FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. DID NOT MENTION MUNOZ-GRANDES REQUEST FOREGOING SUBPARAGRAPH, NOR DID SAGAZ. NOTHING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST EMERGED.

2. RE FOREIGN AND LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, EMBASSY HEARS:

A. REUTERS REPORTED RUMOR THAT IN VILLAGE NEAR VERA YESTERDAY ABOUT 50 PEOPLE MILLED ABOUT, SOME SHOUTING: "YANKES GO HOME AND TAKE YOUR BOMBS". REUTERS CORRESPONDENT DID NOT WITNESS AND GOS INFOMIN OFFICIALLY DENIED. AP CARRIED DENIAL LAST NIGHT.

B. AP CORRESPONDENT MILKS HAS JUST FILED INTERVIEW WITH UNNAMED SPANISH OFFICIAL SAYING MEDICAL SPECIALIST FOUND SMALL AREA AT SITE OF MAIN BOMBER WRECKAGE INITIALLY RADIO-ACTIVE AND "ONLY NORMAL THAT PEOPLE WORKING OVER THAT SPOT HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED". OFFICIAL ADDED: "BUT IF SO, THIS IS VERY, VERY SLIGHT AND OFFERS NO DANAGER TO ANYBODY. ALL TRACES SHOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY IN TWO OR THREE DAYS".

C. OF THREE MADRID MORNING DAILIES, ONLY YA CARRIED FOLLOW-UP STORY TODAY: BRIEF BUT REASSURING FRONT PAGE STORY HEADED: "SEARCH AND SECURITY MEASURES PROCEEDING IN ALMERIA. NO DANGER FROM AIR ACCIDENT EXISTS. INHABITANTS OF INVOLVED ZONES HAVE NOT BEEN EVACUATED". STORY IN SAME TONE SAYS: "LIVE GOES ON NORMALLY IN AFFECTED ZONE SINCE LOCAL MEASURES WHICH ADOPTED IN SMALL DEGREE REPRESENT ONLY EXCESS CAUTION. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT INHAITANTS OF LITTLE RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN ZONE HAVE NOT BEEN EVACUATED".

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-4-871, January 22, from: Madrid

3. UNDERSTAND ONE AEC REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALBUQUERQUE ALREADY IN SPAIN AND THREE MORE DUE ARRIVE JANUARY 23.

4. BELIEVE WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR CONTINUED AND POSSIBLY INCREASED MEDIA TREATMENT OF ACCIDENT UNTIL FOURTH BOMB LOCATED AND REMOVED. IF MUCH MORE TIME ELAPSES WITHOUT SUCCESS IN SEARCH, WE MAY BE FACED WITH PRACTICAL NECESSITY ADMITTING OFFICIALLY ONE BOMB STILL MISSING. THIS IN TURN CARRIES OBVIOUS DANGERS INCLUDING POTENTIALLY TRIGGERING OFF FURTHER GOS OFFICIAL STATEMENTS POSSIBLY INCLUDING PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SPANISH DEMAND THAT REFUELING AND/OR OVERFLIGHTS NUCLEAR-ARMED AIRCRAFT BE STOPPED. IT THEREFORE CLEARLY OF UTMOST URGENCY THAT NO EFFORT BE SPARED LOCATE FOURTH BOMB WITH MINIMUM DELAY. URGE ALL NECESSARY US RESOURCES BE PROVIDED FOR SEARCH.

GP-3

DUKE

BT

Note: Advance copy to S/S-O at 9:55 p.m. 1/22/66
Passed to White House & DOD at 10:33 a.m. 1/22/66

~~SECRET~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

52

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

49

Action

55

Info

CONTROL: 16813

RECD: JANUARY 21, 1966 10:00 AM

FROM: MADRID

ACTION: SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 869

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 21

LIMDIS

REF DEPTTEL 838

1. WITH REFERENCE EFFECT OF B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT ON US-SPANISH RELATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH FONOFF SINCE MONDAY AND HAVE DETECTED NO APPRECIABLE TENSION SO FAR. ITEMS:

A. IN LONG DISCUSSIONS AT SAGAZ LEVEL JANUARY 19 AND 20 ON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ATMOSPHERE PRIMARILY ONE OF COMMON CONCERN OVER PROBLEM CONFRONTING BOTH COUNTRIES; NO EXPLICIT OR IMPLIED RESENTMENT DIRECTED AT US. FOCUS OF FONOFF INTEREST APPEARED BE EFFECT ON SPANISH OPINION OF PUBLIC REVELATION NUCLEAR-ARMED US BOMBERS OPERATING IN SPANISH AIR SPACE. SAGAZ ALSO MENTIONED, WITHOUT GREAT STRESS, THAT SENSATIONAL STORIES ABOUT MISSING BOMBS AND RADIATION COULD EXCITE SPANISH PUBLIC, WHICH UNSOPHISTICATED IN SUCH MATTERS, TO EXAGGERATED REACTION. SOME FONOFF OFFICIALS AT LOWER LEVEL DID EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT "RISKY" REFUELING OPERATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT OVER LAND RATHER THAN SEA.

B. AMBASSADOR WAS REQUESTED TO CALL ON FONMIN JANUARY 20 (EMBTTEL 865) AND HAD LENGTHY, UNHURRIED DISCUSSION. QUESTION OF NATO USE JOINT BASES HERE AND GIBRALTAR DEFINITELY DOMINATED CONVERSATION AND TOOK MARKED PRECEDENCE OVER REMARKS EXCHANGED ON BOMBER ACCIDENT. THRUST OF FONMIN'S COMMENT LATTER SUBJECT WAS CONCERN OVER EFFECT ON SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION OF NEWSPAPER STORIES AND HE SPOKE IN TERMS OF US-SPANISH COLLABORATION TO CONTAIN REPERCUSSIONS.

C. THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER APPROACHES ON PART SPANISH CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES (SUCH AS MININFO) TO EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 05 20

By *ial*, NARA, Date *2-26-11*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2- 869 January 21 from Madrid

D. NO ADVERSE REACTION REPORTED TO DATE FROM HIGH SPANISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM CHIEF JUSMG IN FREQUENT CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. LOCAL PRESS DEVELOPMENTS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. WORTH STRESSING HERE EFFORTS OF GOS TO STEM FLOW OF PRESS INFORMATION PARTICULARLY INTO SPAIN, AS EVIDENCED BY NON-APPEARANCE HERE OF EUROPEAN EDITIONS NYTIMES AND NYHERALD TRIBUNE JANUARY 20.

3. ONLY IMPLICIT GOS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN VICE PRESIDENT MUNOZ GRANDES' SUGGESTION TO CHIEF JUSMG THAT USAF REFUELING OPERATIONS OF THIS NATURE HENCEFORTH TAKE PLACE OVER WATER, NOT OVER SPANISH TERRITORY. MUNOZ GRANDES ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER US HAD ANY NUCLEAR DEVICES STORED ON SPANISH TERRITORY.

4. GOS, SPECIFICALLY FONOFF, EVIDENTLY IS BEING KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AT SITE AND IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS; IT THUS APPEARS BE OPERATING IN AWARENESS ALL ESSENTIAL FACTS, WHICH COMING FROM OWN SOURCES AS WELL AS FROM EFFORTS JUSMG AND EMBASSY.

5. OF RELATED INTEREST IS INQUIRY TO EMBASSY FROM LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT AS TO WHETHER SOVIET TRAWLER, REPUTED TO BE IN ROTA AREA, HAD APPEARED ON SCENE. NO MENTION TO US SO FAR BY GOS OF THIS SUBJECT.

6. AGREE WE SHOULD KEEP DEVELOPMENTS UNDER CONSTANT AND CAREFUL REVIEW AND EMBOFF BEING SENT TO AREA. WE SHALL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT GOS AUTHORITIES IN ORDER BE ABLE DETECT PROMPTLY ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OR UNFAVORABLE TREND IN OPINION SUSCEPTIBLE TO REMEDY BY US. DO NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING FURTHER SHOULD BE DONE AT THIS MOMENT. SHALL KEEP DEPT. INFORMED AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY ACTION CONSIDERED DESIRABLE AS SITUATION UNFOLDS.

GP-3 DUKE

BT

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-O at 10:20 AM, Passed White House at 10:25 AM, 1/21/66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

53

42-5

Action

SS

Info

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONTROL: 16807

RECD: JANUARY 21, 1966 9:52 AM

FROM: MADRID

ACTION: SECSTATE PRIORITY 867

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 21

(1) WITH REFERENCE B52-KC-135 ACCIDENT, ALL THREE MADRID MORNING DAILIES CARRIED FULL TEXT STATEMENT ISSUED BY AIR MINISTRY AFTER FOREIGN PRESS PLAY AND OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENT AND RADIOLOGICAL SEARCH VIRTUALLY FORCED GOS TO BREAK OFFICIAL SILENCE. TEXT STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

(2) "WITH REFERENCE TO AIR ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED OFF SPANISH COAST, IN PROVINCE ALMERIA (WATERS), IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED THAT IT WAS COLLISION BETWEEN TANKER AIRCRAFT AND LONG RANGE AMERICAN JET PLANE, WHILE REFUELING OPERATION UNDER WAY.

(3) " AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL PERSONNEL OF AREA WENT TO HELP CREWS, AND MANAGED SAVE FOUR FLIERS, PUT OUT THE FIRE WHAT REMAINED OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAD FALLEN IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF VILLAGES OF VERA AND PALOMARES.

(4) " THE LARGE AREA, FIVE KILOMETERS IN DIAMETER, OVER WHICH DEBRIS WAS STREWN, AND RECOVERY OF ELEMENTS OF SECRET MILITARY NATURE, HAVE MADE NECESSARY MEASURES TAKEN BY THIS MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE ACCIDENT FULLY AND SEARCH IN SAFETY, IN ORDER OBTAIN FULL INFORMATION AND ANALYZE FINDINGS OF SAFE FLYING PROCEDURE (PROCEDIMIENTO DE SEGURIDAD DE VUELO).

(5) " THE AIR MINISTRY APPRECIATES COOPERATION GIVEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL PERSONNEL AND THEIR SPONTANEOUS AND COURAGEOUS HELP, WHICH MADE POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE GIVEN AND WORK UNDER WAY TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION WITH ADDED SAFETY."

(6) TEXT PRINTED UNDER FOLLOWING HEADLINES: ABC (PAGE ONE)
--"SECURITY MEASURES IN ZONE WHERE TWO US PLANES FELL IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2- 867, JANUARY 21 FROM MADRID

FLIGHT OVER ALMERIA. AUTHORITIES SEEK ELEMENTS OF SECRET MILITARY NATURE." YA--"WRECKED PLANE WAS CARRYING ELEMENTS OF SECRET MILITARY NATURE." ARRIBA--"SECURITY MEASURES IN AMERICNA ZONE OF VER AND PALOMARES. SEARCH FOR SECRET ELEMENTS OF MILITARY NATURE WHICH ONE OF PLANES WRECKED MONDAY WAS CARRYING."

(7) DIRECTLY UNDER TEXT ABC RAN STORY FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MASSIP HEADLINED "PANIC OVER ATOMIC DEVICES." STORY REPORTED "SOMETHING CLOSE TO PANIC OVER ATOMIC WEAPONS IS SPREADING IN US REARGUARD AS RESULT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE CRISES THIS WEEK." REFERS TO INCIDENTS (BROOKHAVEN LABORATORY AND ABOARD USS LUCE) COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO SAC COLLISION. ARTICLE ENDS BY STATING PAST CRASHES SAC BOMBERS IN US WITHOUT ANY ATOMIC ACCIDENT CONFIRM IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXPLOSION DEVICES.

(8) REPORTS CIRCULATING HERE THAT FOREIGN (INCLUDING US) NEWSREEL AND TV CAMERA CREWS PLANING TO GO TO CRASH SCENE FILM STORY.

(9) IF SECURITY MEASURES IMPOSED BY SPANISH REMAIN IN EFFECT DIFFICULT FORESEE WHAT CAN BE FILMED OR REACTION MEDIA.
DUKE

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 1/21/66 10:35 a.m.

Handled LIMBIS per S/S-O

RECEIVED
JAN 21 1966
FOR INFO
DETACHED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

54

~~SECRET~~

Action

JS

Info

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1966 JAN 19 PM 3 59

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 857
INFO RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 48
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 84
RUFHPA/POLAD CINCEUR IMMEDIATE UNN
STATE GRNC
BT

~~SECRET~~ JANUARY 19

REF EMBTEL 855

DEPT PASS DOD AND HQ SAC OMAHA

1. HAVE JUST LEARNED LOCAL UPI CORRESPONDENT FILED STORY TODAY ON B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT TO EFFECT THREE ATOM BOMBS RECOVERED FROM WRECKAGE BUT ONE STILL MISSING AND THAT HUNDREDS OF US TROOPS COMBING COUNTRYSIDE WITH GEIGER COUNTERS.

2. SINCE FOREGOING MAY LEAD TO ESCALATION OF MEDIA TREATMENT AND RAPID CHANGE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST WASHINGTON CLEARANCE SOONEST OF DRAFT STATEMENT PARA 3 REFTEL FOR RELEASE AT AMBASSADORS DISCRETION AND SUBJECT TO FINAL CLEARANCE FROM GOS.

GP-3
DUKE
BT

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O, 1/19/66, 4:10 p.m.

PASSED WHITE HOUSE, 1/19/66, 4:45 p.m.

PASSED DOD and HQ SAC OMAHA, 1/19/66, 1/19/66, 4:55 p.m.

NOTE: HANDLE LIMDIS PER S/S-O

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

~~SECRET~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

55

43
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LDNΔ67
PP RUEHC
DE RUFHDN 004LL 0191755
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC [856]
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 83
RUFHPA/POLAD CINCEUR UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY LONDON 47
STATE GRNC
BT

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1966 JAN 19 PM 1 10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 19

DEPT PASS DOD, USIA

REF EMBTEL 847

EXCEPT FOR PHOTOS OF WRECKAGE AND SURVIVORS, SPANISH PRESS COVERAGE OF SAC BOMBER-TANKER CRASH STILL COMPARATIVELY SUBDUED AND VOLUME DIMINISHING. ONLY SUGGESTION OF DANGER TO SPANIARDS IN BRIEF ABC ITEM SAYING FALLING WRECKAGE "COULD HAVE CAUSED VICTIMS AMONG THE POPULATION." ALL ACCOUNTS DEVOID ANY MENTION OF WEAPONRY OR AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION AND SAFETY MEASURES.

GP-3 DUKE

NOTE: HANDLE AS LIMDIS PER S/S-O

Advance copy to S/S-O 1/19/66 1:17 p.m.

Passed White House, DOD, SAC, USIA 1/19/66 1:40 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NJ 88-142
By inf, NARA, Date 8-15-88

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

56

~~SECRET~~

0114885

1966 JAN 19 PM 12 56

48
Action
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TZCZCLDN463
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 855
INFO RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 46
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 82
RUFHPA/POLAD CINCEUR IMMEDIATE UNN
STATE GRNC
BT

~~SECRET~~ JANUARY 19

REF DEPTEL 819

DEPT PASS DOD AND HQ SAC OMAHA

1. AS ANTICIPATED DEPTEL SPANISH ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO ANY FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT. FONOFF (IN NAME MINISTERS FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AIR AND NAVY WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN CONFERENCE AT FONOFF WHEN EMBASSY TOOK UP CONSULTATION PURSUANT REFTEL) POINTED OUT TODAY STORY DYING IN SPANISH PRESS AND LOCAL INTEREST SUBSIDING. FONOFF EVEN REQUESTED THAT ANY EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE ON OUR PART FOR SPANISH HELP IN RESCUE AND SEARCH OPERATIONS NOT RPT NOT BE MADE PUBLICLY.

PAGE TWO RUFHDN 003LL ~~SECRET~~

2. HOWEVER, WHEN INFORMED STORY MAY ASSUME ADDED DIMENSIONS ELSEWHERE IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS, FONOFF AGREED IT COULD CONCEIVABLY LATER BECOME DESIRABLE TO RESTRAIN SPECULATION WITH ANOTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT. IN THIS SPIRIT, FONOFF GAVE TENTATIVE APPROVAL TO DRAFT QUOTED BELOW ON CONDITION FINAL GOS CLEARANCE BE OBTAINED IF US BELIEVED CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED FURTHER STATEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT GIVEN TENTATIVE AND CONDITIONAL CLEARANCE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

Authority FRUS 64-68, vol. 12, 190

By JC NARA, Date 10-25-04

~~SECRET~~

-2-855, January 19, from: Madrid

QUOTE. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE TODAY EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE WHOLEHEARTED ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES AND CIVILIANS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOLLOWING THE MID-AIR COLLISION OF TWO AMERICAN MILITARY PLANES ON MONDAY.

THE COLLISION INVOLVED A B-52 INTER-CONTINENTAL BOMBER AND A KC-135 JET TANKER ENGAGED IN A ROUTINE HIGH ALTITUDE REFUELING OPERATION. FOUR AIRMEN WERE RESCUED, BUT SEVEN LOST THEIR LIVES.

PAGE THREE RUFHDN 003LL ~~SECRET~~

IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY U.S. AIR FORCE INVESTIGATORS THAT A SMALL EXPLOSION OF CONVENTIONAL MATERIALS HAD OCCURRED ON THE GROUND AS A SEQUEL TO THE CRASH. THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED WHEN WRECKAGE FELL NEAR THE TINY VILLAGE OF PALOMARES, NEAR VERA, CLOSE TO THE SPOT WHERE THE DAMAGED BUT VIRTUALLY INTACT TAIL ASSEMBLY OF THE B-52 BOMBER WAS FOUND. NO CASUALTIES AMONG INHABITANTS OF THE AREA HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

RADIATION MONITORING TEAMS ARE OPERATING IN THE AREA AND WILL REMAIN TO COMPLETE THEIR SURVEY AND CONFIRM THE SAFETY OF THE SPOT.

AN INTENSIVE SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATION ON LAND AND OFF THE COAST IN THE ACCIDENT AREA IS BEING CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY SPANISH AND AMERICAN FORCES. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH AND TO PRECLUDE A SIMILAR ACCIDENT, IT IS DESIRED TO RECOVER ALL PIECES OF THE WRECKAGE WHICH WILL LATER BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY AIR FORCE EXPERTS.

MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY DONOVAN, CHIEF OF THE JOINT U.S. MILITARY GROUP (JUSMG) AND MAJOR GENERAL DELMAR E. WILSON, COMMANDER SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE, JOINED THE AMBASSADOR IN PRAISING THE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY SPANIARDS. THEY COMMENDED THE SPANISH NAVY FOR IMMEDIATELY LOCATING AND DIRECTING THE RESCUE OF THREE AIRMEN WHO PARACHUTED INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

PAGE FOUR RUFHDN 003LL ~~SECRET~~

THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALS ALSO VOICED GRATIFICATION FOR THE USE OF SPANISH MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE ACCIDENT AREA, THE CLOSE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE GUARDIA CIVIL, AND THE AID OF THE SPANISH AIR FORCE. UNQUOTE.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-3-855, January 19, from: Madrid

4. SPANISH OBJECTED STRONGLY TO MORE FORTHRIGHT TREATMENT OF RADIATION CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL DRAFT, AND AMBASSADOR, ON ADVICE CHIEF JUSMG WHO JUST RETURNED FROM SCENE OF ACCIDENT, BELIEVES WORDING AS GIVEN ABOVE ADEQUATE. U.S. OFFICIALS HERE WOULD DECLINE FURTHER COMMENT ON SUBJECT IF QUESTIONED BY PRESS.

5. MUST EMPHASIZE GOS VERY ANXIOUS THAT NO FURTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT BE MADE UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARE LIKELY TO RELENT ONLY IN FACE CLEAR AND URGENT NECESSITY.

GP-3

DUKE

BT

Handle as LIMDIS per S/S-O

Advance copy to S/S-O at 1:00 p.m. 1/19/66

Passed to DOD & Hq SAC Omaha at 1:20 p.m. 1/19/66

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

06998

~~SECRET~~

86

Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy MADRID

PRIORITY

943

FEB 12 2 05 PM '66

G

Info:

INFO: DOD

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DOD pass SYLVESTER

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SAH

SUBJECT: Press Statement on B-52 Accident

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USIA

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WHB

1. Following inter-agency agreed press statement has been drafted with view to release in Spain, perhaps as joint Embassy-Air Force release with concurrence GOS. Alternatively, could be reworked into joint U.S.-Spanish release, to be issued simultaneously in Madrid and Palomares area. Our idea is to have put out in Spain self-sufficient statement designed tell what happened within security limits, to have no press conference, and to answer no questions concerning search operations. There is to be no Washington release. Identification of plutonium and uranium has been made to permit questions about health and safety to be answered by reference to open literature on these isotopes. Dr. Langham carrying ample material for this purpose. Would appreciate soonest Embassy or GOS views foregoing course action.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 88-142

By *inf*, NARA, Date 8-15-88

Drafted by:

G/PM:SGeorge:ml 2/12/66

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

EUR - Mr. Leddy

Clearances:

DOD - Mr. Vance

AEC - Mr. Cannon

USIA - Mr. Hanson

P - Mr. Phillips

WE - Mr. McKillop

~~SECRET~~

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PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

~~SECRET~~

2. Begin verbatim text:

Search is being pressed off the Spanish Coast for the recovery of material carried by the two planes involved in the recent air collision and for fragments of wreckage which might furnish clues to the cause of the accident. Included aboard the B-52 which collided with the KC-135 tanker were several unarmed nuclear weapons, one of which has not yet been recovered.

When this search and investigation have been concluded, further announcement will be made of the results.

The impact of the weapons on land caused rupture of weapons cases, which resulted in scattering of a small amount of plutonium (PU 239) and uranium (U 235) in the immediate vicinity of the points of impact. There was no nuclear explosion.

Built-in safeguards perfected through years of extensive safety testing, have allowed the U.S. to handle, store and transport nuclear weapons for more than two decades without a nuclear detonation. Thorough safety rules and practices also have been developed for dealing with any weapon accident which might result in the spilling of nuclear materials.

Radiological

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Radiological ~~xxxxxxx~~ surveys of the Palomares area and its human and animal populations have included detailed laboratory studies by leading Spanish and U.S. scientists. They have obtained no evidence of a health hazard. These experts say there is no hazard ~~fr~~ from eating vegetables marketed from this area, from eating the meat or fish or drinking the milk of animals.

Steps have been taken to insure that the affected areas are thoroughly cleaned up, and some soil and vegetation are being removed. These measures are part of a comprehensive program to eliminate the chance of hazard, to set at rest unfounded fears, and thus to restore normal life and livelihood to the people of Palomares.

End text.

RUSK

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~ CITE 341, JANUARY 19

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1966 JAN 20 05 00

~~SECRET~~ LIMDIS

58
DECLASSIFIED

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION MADRID 828 INFO LONDON 4201PARIS 3359,
FROM SECSTATE JANUARY 19, SIGNED BALL

QUOTE

PARIS FOR JAMES

LIMDIS

FROM STATE AND DEFENSE

BELIEVE STATEMENT EMBTEL 855 MAY HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENT
REPORTED EMBTEL 857 WHICH CARRIED UPI WIRE HERE. IF GOS NEVER-
THELESS BELIEVES IMPORTANT ISSUE STATEMENT EMBTEL 855 WE WISH

PAGE TWO RUEHC 10456 ~~SECRET~~
DELETE FOLLOWING PORTIONS: QUOTE IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY USAF
INVESTIGATORS THAT A SMALL EXPLOSION OF CONVENTIONAL MATERIALS
HAD OCCURRED ON THE GROUND AS A SEQUEL TO THE CRASH. THE EXPLOSION
OCCURRED WHEN END QUOTE AND THREE SENTENCES BEGINNING WITH QUOTE
RADIATION MONITORING TEAMS UNQUOTE AND ENDING WITH QUOTE EXPERTS
END QUOTE. LAST SENTENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED READ QUOTE US OF-
FICIALS ALSO VOICED GRATIFICATION FOR SPANISH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
TO INJURED AMERICAN CREWMEN IN THE ACCIDENT AREA ETC END QUOTE.

IN VIEW DEVELOPMENT REPORTED EMBTEL 857 EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK
GOS AGREEMENT FOR 16TH AIR FORCE AND FOR DEFENSE TO MAKE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ANY INQUIRIES: QUOTE THE SAC BOMBER
WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN A REFUELING ACCIDENT WITH A KC-135 TANKER
OFF THE COAST OF SPAIN WAS CARRYING UNARMED NUCLEAR ARMAMENT.
RADIOLOGICAL SURVEYS HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THERE IS NO DANGER TO
PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY AS A RESULT OF THIS ACCIDENT. END QUOTE.
WE WOULD HOLD THE LINE TO THIS ONE STATEMENT.

ADVISE SOONEST. END.

GP-3.

UNQUOTE

BALL
BT

NNNN

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By ing, NARA, Date 8-15-88

~~SECRET~~ LIMDIS

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

12217

59

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

SUMMARY

ACTION: ~~Amembassy~~ MADRID ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 851 IMMEDIATE

JAN 22 11 20 AM '66

LIMDIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

You are authorized pass following to FenMin Castiella on my behalf.
close

QUOTE Ambassador Duke and I have been in ~~close~~ contact since the unfortunate crash in Spain of two US aircraft and I want to assure you that we are determined to do everything that we can to minimize the effects of this incident.

I have asked Ambassador Duke to continue to keep me posted on a daily basis and to pass on to me immediately any suggestions or views you may wish to make available to me. Meanwhile, I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your cooperation. END QUOTE

END

GP-3

RUSK

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 88-142

By 4-8, NARA, Date 8-5-88

Drafted by: WWalker:pr

EUR:WE:XXXXXXXX 1/21/66

Clearances

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

The Secretary

WE - Mr. McKillop
S/S - Mr. deMartino

EUR - Mr. Leddy
~~XXX~~

G/PM - Mr. Meyers
P - Mr. Phillips

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~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

08319

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

60

45

Origin

P

Info

ACTION: Amembassy MADRID **809** IMMEDIATE

Rptd Info: RUFHPA/Amembassy PARIS **3274** IMMEDIATE

JAN 17 12 58 PM '66

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Joint State-DOD Message.

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

Re Embtel 839.

NIJ 88-142

By inf, NARA, Date 8-15-88

Following is text of proposed press statement for release

Torrejon once GOS has indicated no objections.

by 16th Air Force/~~XXXXXXXX~~

QUOTE. A B-52 bomber from the 68th Bomb Wing at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, and a KC-135 Tanker from the 910th Air Refueling Squadron at Bergstrom Air/~~XXXX~~ Base, Texas, crashed today southwest of Cartagena, Spain, during scheduled air operations.

There are reports of some survivors/ from the crews of the aircraft.

An Air Force Accident Investigation Team has been dispatched to the scene. Additional details will be available as the investigation progresses. END QUOTE.

Statement has been cleared by Defense with appropriate military commands including 16th Air Force. Embassy should

~~Embassy should~~

~~xxxx should~~

obtain

Drafted by:

P:RIPhillips:ktk 1/17/66

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

EUR - John M. Leddy

Clearances:

DOD/OSD-Mr. Goulding (in subs) WE - Mr. Ortiz

WE - Mr. McKillop

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~~AMXX~~

obtain GOS clearance for immediate release by 16th Air Force. Inform Department once statement made.

Neither DOD nor State contemplate releasing any information at this time.

END

ACTING

BALL.

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