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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#2 report	summary record of National Security Council Meeting No 533 <i>open 42-85</i> Top secret <i>NLS 83-236</i> 2 p	06/06/64	A
#3 report	record of actions secret <i>open 8-1-84 NLS 83-237</i> 1 p	06/06/64	A

FILE LOCATION

NATIONAL SECURITY FILE, National Security Council File
NSC Meetings, Vol. 2 Tab 6, 6/6/64, Laos

RESTRICTION CODES

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Summary Record of National Security Council Meeting No. 533,
June 6, 1964, 10:45 AM - Laos

Secretary McNamara reported that an RF-8 jet reconnaissance plane from the USS KITTY HAWK had been shot down by antiaircraft fire approximately six miles from the town of Ban Ban in the Plaine des Jarres. The pilot was observed to have parachuted to the ground and was surrounded by Pathet Lao troops. Rescue attempts have been made but have not been successful.

Secretary McNamara reported his own recommendation and that of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that aerial reconnaissance be conducted tomorrow. A single flight plan was recommended, to be carried out by two reconnaissance aircraft, escorted by six to eight fighter bombers, with instructions to return any ground fire.

General LeMay and General Greene stated that they had personally recommended that the antiaircraft unit which had fired upon the downed aircraft be attacked but both concurred in the recommendations of the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of State. Both were certain that future reconnaissance planes would be subjected to ground fire.

General Wheeler said we should wait for further ground fire before hitting antiaircraft positions. All the military officers, the Secretary of Defense, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense agreed that it was important militarily to continue reconnaissance.

Secretary Rusk agreed that reconnaissance should be continued with armed escorts who would return ground fire; but that such reconnaissance should be limited strictly to what is militarily required, and should be scheduled in accordance with real needs. The Secretary of State further wanted an opportunity to obtain, during the day, Souvanna Phouma's concurrence in the recommended action, to which the Secretary of Defense agreed.

The President inquired what had been the results of previous reconnaissance. Secretary McNamara replied that reconnaissance had shown the location of antiaircraft sites, troop dispositions and movements, supply routes and depots, and the movement of numbers of trucks down these routes. Night reconnaissance had also disclosed a significant increase of night movement on the supply routes from North Vietnam into Laos.

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The Secretary of State agreed with the Secretary of Defense that reconnaissance had also had a political effect and may have prevented the complete breakdown of the Government of National Union.

The President specifically asked the Attorney General, Mr. McCone, Speaker McCormack and Mr. McGeorge Bundy whether they agreed with the recommendations of the Secretaries of State and Defense and the Joint Chiefs. All agreed and no one present made any further observation.

Michael Forrestal

~~TOP SECRET~~

SERVICE SET

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~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

RECORD OF ACTIONS

NSC
Action

2489. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF LAOS

- a. Discussed the shooting down of a U. S. jet reconnaissance plane in Laos.
- b. Noted the President's approval of the recommendation to send fighter bombers to escort the next reconnaissance mission.

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Authority NLS 83-237

By iss, NARS, Date 8-1-84

June 6, 1964
533rd NSC Meeting
NSC Action 2489

~~SECRET~~

NSC Control No. 167

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR THE 533rd NSC MEETING
JUNE 6, 1964, AT 10:45 A. M. in the CABINET ROOM OF
THE WHITE HOUSE

The President of the United States, Presiding

Speaker of the House of Representatives

AID

David E. Bell, Administrator

William S. Gaud, Deputy Administrator

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Robert F. Kennedy

CIA

John A. McCone, Director

William Colby

DEFENSE

Robert S. McNamara, Secretary

Cyrus Vance, Deputy Secretary

John McNaughton, Assistant Secretary (ISA)

JCS

General Earle G. Wheeler, USA, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

Admiral David L. McDonald, USN, Chief of Naval Operations

General Curtis E. LeMay, USAF, Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force

Lieut. General W. M. Greene, Commandant, Marine Corps

Lieut. General Andrew J. Goodpaster, Special Assistant to the Chairman

OEP

Edward A. McDermott, Director

STATE

Dean Rusk, Secretary

Averell Harriman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs

U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs

William Sullivan, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Vietnam

USIA

Carl T. Rowan, Director

WHITE HOUSE

McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

Douglass Cater, Special Assistant to the President

Michael V. Forrestal, Senior Member, National Security Council Staff