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JEUNEI / CORONA

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON

NOE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

14 August 1964

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CHIEF D/CHIEF MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of Interdepartmental SUBJECT:

Contingency Planning Committee, 14 August 1964,

1100, Room 4E886, Pentagon Building

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Brockway McMillan, (S)D/NRO-Chairman Member:

Mr. Peter Jessup, White House

Col Leo P. Geary, AFIGO-S Col Ralph D. Steakley, JCS

Col Jack Ledford, CIA Member Absent:

Consultants and Briefing Participants:

Mr. Eugene Kiefer, (s) DD/NRO Brig Gen James T. Stewart, (s) NRO Staff Maj Albert W. Johnson, (s) NRO Staff

Mr. Louis F. Mazza, (6) NRO Staff

Col Clay Saunders, AFIGO-S

Item #1

Consideration was given to contingency matters concerning the recent impact of portions of CORONA/J Mission 1005 in Venezuela. Background materials disseminated with the agenda were reviewed and a short briefing given by Major Johnson and who had just returned from Venezuela. The proposed

plan of action also previously disseminated with the agenda was It was suggested and agreed that the passage of time and events had ruled out the advisability of using Suggested Release #1. It was agreed that the U.S. Government should immediately adopt the posture outlined in Suggested Release #2 (see Atch A). It was also agreed that the suggested

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statement for the Venezuelan Minister of Defense was appropriate; that it might be made at this time; that the suggested unclassified photographs of THOR/AGENA launches should not accompany the statement and that the statement should be made by the U.S. Embassy in Caracas rather than the Air Attache. The following course of action was unanimously agreed to and adopted:

- (1) There should be no official release except in the event of further press inquiry.
- (2) In response to inquiries, the Department of State would acknowledge that the spacecraft was of U.S. origin and refer to the Department of Defense for details.
- (3) The Department of Defense would respond pursuant to Attachment A and provide no further details.
- U.S. Ambassador to advise the Venezuelan Minister of Defense pursuant to Attachment B and would also provide the Ambassador with the substance of the statement that would be made by the Department of Defense in the event of U.S. press inquiry.

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Secretary	of De	efense	for	Public	Affa	irs	of th	e agreed-t	o .
position.	${ t Mr.}$	Mazza	was	request	ted t	o no	tify	appropriat	e indi-
viduals ir	ı the	Nation	nal A	Aeronaut	cics	and	Space	Administr	ation.

Item #2

Brigadier General Stewart, the Director, (S) NRO Staff, suggested the following changes to the Committee's method of operation:

- (1) That the (5) NRO Staff assume secretariat duties on behalf of the Group.
- (2) That there be created a small Contingency Working/Action Group comprised of representatives from CIA, State Department, and the Department of Defense which, acting with the assistance of other members of the Committee as required, would effect necessary emergency actions under contingency circumstances and provide necessary staff work in support of the Committee.

Both suggestions were approved by the Committee. General Stewart suggested that one of the first assignments of the Contingency Working/Action Group would be to re-examine the existing Contingency Plan in light of experience gained from

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the recent situation and to recommend to the Committee changes that might be appropriate. The Committee also agreed to this proposal.

Item #3

Considerable discussion took place concerning contingency and cover factors involved in the impending SAC 147B photographic drone operation BLUE SPRINGS. Colonel Steakley explained approval had already been obtained for one launch to cover North Vietnam and Hainan Island; that they were only awaiting JCS authority to go, and that the major consideration was weather. It has also been proposed, however, that missions be launched against South China targets and that approval and launching of operations could well take place within a week.

Subject to further checking by the Department of State representative, it was agreed in the event of incident relating to the mission scheduled for Hainan Island and North Vietnam, which would involve downing of the drone or the drone falling into the hands of either of the two governments involved, that the U.S. Government would respond only to the extent that "none of our aircraft have been reported missing; we are checking into the matter." It was agreed that any position taken subsequent to that would necessitate the Committee's further review in light of the circumstances.

It was agreed that the drone flights proposed over South China targets were an entirely different matter. After considerable discussion of possible alternatives, it was agreed that the newly established Contingency Working/Action Group, working in conjunction with Col Steakley, JCS, should consider this matter and make a recommendation to the Committee at the earliest possible convenience.

2 Atchs

1. Statement to be
Released by DOD in
Response to Press
Inquiry (Atch A)

 Statement to be Made by the U.S. Embassy, Caracas, to the Venezuelan Min. of Defense (Atch B) JAMES T. STEWART

Brigadier General, USAF

Director

(S)NRO Staff

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