



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.

(4) The Department of State would instruct the 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.

[redacted] was requested to advise the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs of the agreed-to position. Mr. Mazza was requested to notify appropriate individuals in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

3.3(h)(2)

Item #2

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

(1) That the ~~(S)~~ 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

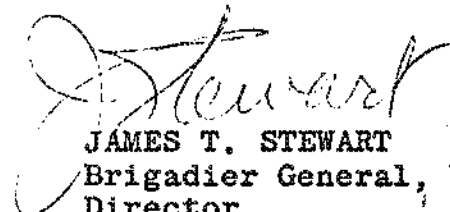
Considerable discussion took place concerning contingency and cover factors involved in the impending SAC 147B photographic drone operation BLUE SPRINGS. Colonel Steakley explained approval had already been obtained for one launch to cover North Vietnam and Hainan Island; that they were only awaiting 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)
2. Statement to be Made by the U.S. Embassy, Caracas, to the Venezuelan Min. of Defense (Atch B)



JAMES T. STEWART  
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Director  
~~(S)~~ NRO Staff

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