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5 May 1969

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD



SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 29 April 1969

PRESENT: Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Packard, Mr. Johnson,  
and Mr. HelmsColonel Alexander Haig, Mr. William Trueheart, Brigadier  
General Ralph D. Steakley, and Brigadier General Donald H.  
Ross were also present.

May 7, 1969

Dr. McLucas            *M.L.*Mr. Reber            *[Signature]*Gen. Berg            *[Signature]*

Please return to Mr. Reber for file.

2. SAFSS Forecast for May 1969The SAFSS forecast for May 1969 was approved with the following  
exceptions:

a. During the discussion of resumption of JRC reconnaissance flights, Mr. Helms asked if the President had also approved resumption of the SAFSS U-2 Photo/ELINT peripheral missions of Communist China which approach no closer than 20 n.m. to the China mainland. The Chairman stated he had not discussed these specific flights with the President but would do so.

b. On 30 April 1969, the President approved resumption of the SAFSS U-2 peripheral missions.

c. The four 147 H/T drone missions scheduled over South China during May were deferred until June. Because of the altered situation resulting from the shoot-down of the EC-121M and ensuing stand-down of reconnaissance missions since 15 April, it was considered important not to give Peking a pretext right now to shoot down one of our peripheral reconnaissance aircraft. It was believed that reinstatement of drone flights at this moment might well provide Peking such a pretext.

*Frank M. Chapin*  
Frank M. Chapin

## Distribution

Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Packard  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Helms

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An extract from the special Minutes of the 303 Committee meeting held on 17 June 1969 is set forth below for your information.

(PRESENT: Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Packard,  
Mr. U. Johnson, and Mr. Helms )

2. Discussion of Procedures Governing Policy Approval of the Monthly Bank of IDEALIST/TACKLE Peripheral Missions

a. Mr. Packard stated that under present procedures no advance tracks are provided for the monthly bank of four U-2 Photo/ELINT peripheral flights of Communist China flown under CIA auspices. Normally, the JRC receives only 24 hours advance notice of the tracks to be flown by these missions, and this does not always allow sufficient time for appropriate notifications and replies to and from Air Force elements in the field. General Steakley added that a 48-hour advance notification would be adequate.

b. Mr. Parangosky pointed out that these missions are contingent upon favorable weather conditions. Any given track to be flown is based upon a 29-hour advance weather forecast, and it is therefore not feasible to provide JRC a 48-hour advance notification.

c. Mr. Helms suggested developing a coordinated library of tracks of missions to be flown dependent upon weather conditions. All agreed that this would be an acceptable solution to the problem.

June 26, 1969

Dr. McLucas                     

Mr. Reber                     

Col. Allen                     

Dr. Naka 3 July 69

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(extract - para. 2)

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