

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~1ST~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*key: security, OXCART, BLACK SHIELD,
Army
No Korea,
Product.*

THE NRO STAFF

20 February 1968

[Handwritten signature]
MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

VIA: General Berg

SUBJECT: BLACK SHIELD North Korean Product Security

The intelligence products (including photography) of A-12 North Korean overflights are currently disseminated under SECRET/NOFORN security classification and control, with no description of source given other than to the obvious conclusion that it is aerial reconnaissance photog-raphy. This procedure, recommended by COMIREX and approved by USIB, is consistent with security procedures governing the dissemination of the products of A-12, North Vietnam overflight activity.

In the attached message traffic, State Department advises that its concurrence to this procedure had been in response to the needs of the military establishment related to contingency planning. They request, that in view of the potential additional provocation of this act in terms of the already disturbed Korean situation, that wherever else possible, that the results of this activity be reported only in those publications bearing the restrictive security caveats usual to NRP operations.

This is for your information only.

[Handwritten signature: Louis F. Mazza]
LOUIS F. MAZZA
Assistant for Security
NRO Staff

Atchs

[Handwritten signature: Berg]

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 15200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

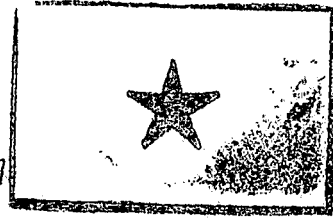
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REF: OPCEN 18-18

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS REQUESTED THAT INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THE MOST RECENT BLACK SHIELD COVERAGE OF NORTH KOREA BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN REFERENCE.

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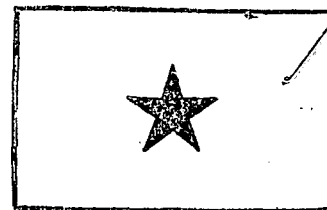
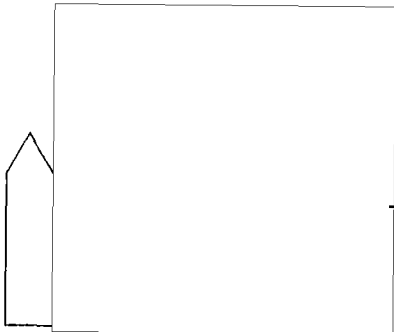
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Col. Howard
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TOP SECRET TTTT TALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS CITE OPCEN 1818

SAFSS FOR COL HOWARD, AFSSO USAF ATTN AFNIN

1. THE STATE COMIREX MEMBER HAS REPORTED THAT HIS USIB PRINCIPAL HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER USE OF BLACK SHIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OVER NORTH KOREA IN A RECENT CURRENT INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATION. THE STATE COMIREX MEMBER HAS ADVISED US OF THE FOLLOWING CONCERN OF HIS PRINCIPAL AND REQUESTS YOUR COOPERATION IN TAKING THE NECESSARY ACTIONS.
QUOTE

A. WITH THIS GOVERNMENT MAKING A STRONG CASE NOW IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE LEGALITY FOR THE PUEBLO'S OPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IT COULD WEAKEN OUR CASE IF IT BECAME GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AT THE UN THAT WE HAD CONDUCTED AN OVER-FLIGHT OVER NORTH KOREA. THUS, STATE HAD CONCURRED AT COMIREX IN RELEASE OF MATERIAL AT SECRET NOFORN LEVEL. THIS WAS DONE PRIMARILY TO RESPOND TO THE NEED OF THE MILITARY FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES. (WE BELIEVE THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PUBLICATION EITHER OF PHOTOGRAPHS OR INTELLIGENCE DERIVED FROM THE BLACK SHIELD READOUT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CARRIED ONLY IN FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS BEARING RESTRICTIVE DESIGNATORS SUCH AS TRINE AND BYEMAN, AND) CARRY RESTRICTIVE DESIGNATORS.

B. THE DEPARTMENT URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT YOU NOTIFY ALL MEMBERS OF COMIREX OF THE ABOVE VIEW AND ASK THAT COMIREX MEMBERS GET IN TOUCH WITH PRODUCTION PEOPLE OF THEIR AGENCIES TO SEE THAT, EXCEPT AS NEEDED BY MILITARY PLANNERS, THE RESULTS OF THE BLACK SHIELD MISSIONS ARE CARRIED ONLY IN RESTRICTIVE DESIGNATORS. QUOTE ENDED.

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SS-3 will prepare for

Dr. Flax

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