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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 19, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR DR HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
MR THOMAS PARROTT
MR ROGER HILSMAN
BRIG GEN EDWARD LANSDALE

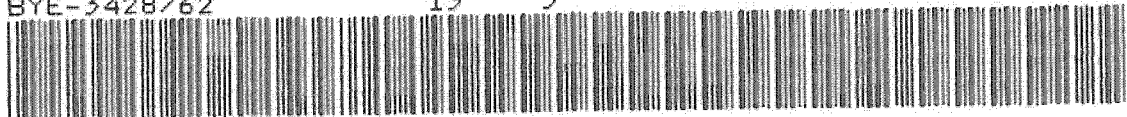
Reference is made to my memorandum of October 12, 1962, which furnished a cover story on Operation NIMBUS for your review. I am forwarding a revised copy which includes all suggestions received regarding the draft version and supersedes it.

1 Atch:
As stated

Joseph V. Charyk
Director
~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance
Office

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19 October 1962

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT
TO OPERATION NIMBUSI. PREVIOUS COVER PLAN

This document supersedes previous Cover Plan BYE 3401-62 which should be removed from the files and destroyed.

II. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The objective of Operation NIMBUS is photographic and electronic reconnaissance of selected military and intelligence targets on the Island of Cuba. The instrument to be used to accomplish the objective is the U-2 aircraft.

III. GENERAL OPERATIONAL COVER PLAN

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the communist buildup. The Strategic Air Command is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective, using U-2 aircraft.

The above plan principally applies when the U-2 is located, or involved in an incident, outside the U. S. continental limits. For training/staging base activities and for emergency landings at bases within the continental United States, there is an alternate story as indicated in paragraphs V, B, and C below.

IV. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS
ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:A. Hostile:

Cuba

B. Other:

Puerto Rico
Bahamas
Dominican Republic

Jamaica
Haiti

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V. PERTINENT COVER STORIES TO BE DISSEMINATED BY RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICES ARE INDICATED BELOW:

A. General Press and Publication Inquiries:

1. Cover Story

- a. In the event of an incident, the Department of State spokesman, in response to queries at press conferences, will refer to the final communique of the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics which was held in Washington on October 2 and 3, 1962, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

"The meeting observed that it is desirable to intensify surveillance of the delivery of arms and implements of war and all other items of strategic importance to the Communist regime in Cuba, in order to prevent the secret accumulation in the Island of arms that can be used for offensive purposes against the Hemisphere."

He will state that in response to this OAS agreement the United States has intensified its surveillance through the use of every means available to the nation to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the communist buildup in Cuba.

- b. CINCLANT will be advised of the foregoing and instructed to refer any press inquiries to the Director, Office of Information, Headquarters, USAF (General Martin). The Under Secretary of the Air Force (Dr Charyk) will furnish to General Martin a statement consistent with paragraph a. above.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr Scoville)

B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:

1. Cover Story

The U-2 is a SAC-owned aircraft flown from Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas, engaged in a routine training flight.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr Scoville)

C. Emergency Landings at Bases within Continental U. S.

1. Cover Story

Same as V. B., above.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr Scoville)

D. Incident over Hostile Territory (see IV. A.)

1. Cover Story

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy the aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is

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within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base he will head offshore, contact the base by prearranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo from the direction of the open sea.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will repeat the story given in paragraph V. E., below. If queried by these forces, he may state that he was engaged in peripheral surveillance, but will deny overflight. In response to questions regarding his physical presence in Cuba, he will state that he was attacked while on a regular peripheral surveillance mission, parachuted from his aircraft, and drifted inland.

In the event of an incident verified by appropriate U. S. authorities, the Department of State spokesman, without awaiting a protest from Cuban sources, will use the cover story in V. A. 1. and vigorously protest Cuban action against a legitimate peripheral surveillance flight.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr Hillmann)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr Scoville)

E. Incident Over Other Territory Outside the U. S. (see IV. B.)

1. Cover Story

The Department of State spokesman will immediately issue a statement in which he will use the cover story in V. A. 1., and note that the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area.

(N. B. - Instructions to the pilot are to secure the aircraft through local assistance to prevent damage and pilferage

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and to contact the local U. S. Consulate to assist him in communicating with his emergency contacts (Mission Control Center or Hq SAC)).

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr. Hillman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

F. Hostile Protest without Incident:

1. Cover Story

A Department of State spokesman will deny knowledge of any such overflight of Cuba.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr. Hillman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

G. Emergency Landing at Civilian Airport within Continental United States with Journalists or Photographers Present

1. Cover Story

a. If aircraft shows battle damage. If queried by the press, the pilot may state he was engaged in peripheral surveillance, but will deny overflight of Cuba.

b. If aircraft shows no battle damage. No cover story required (see V., C.).

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2. Responsible Action Officer

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

3. Coordinating Offices Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr Scoville)

VI. The following offices or individuals have been briefed on this cover plan by Col Ralph D. Steadley and have been instructed to either respond to press inquiries as directed or to refer such inquiries to Headquarters USAF - Office of Information (General Martin):

Commander, Strategic Air Command (Gen Power)
CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Donelson)

VII. The following named individuals are being furnished a copy of this document for purposes of internal coordination with cleared personnel within their respective departments:

Dr Joseph V. Charyk	Department of Defense
Brig Gen Edward G. Lansdale	Department of Defense
Mr Thomas Parrott	Executive Office of the President
Mr Roger Hilsman	Department of State
Dr Herbert Scoville	Central Intelligence Agency
Col Ralph D. Steadley	Department of Defense (JCS)
Col Leo P. Geary	AFCM-5, Special Projects, USAF

VIII. It is desired that each agency maintain a list of all cleared personnel within their respective organizations who have been briefed on this cover plan.

IX. The Central Intelligence Agency will notify each agency of any changes to this plan, and in turn requests that any alterations be coordinated with the CIA prior to implementation.

CIA Contact
Office Telephone
CIA Control Center
Home Telephone

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