

1011-1-3-2
mjm

~~TOP SECRET~~

IDEALIST/TACKLE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30 DEC 1969

BYE 8685/69

Copy 1



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: IDEALIST/TACKLE Mission Planning and Alerting Procedures

- REFERENCE:
- A. 16 December 1969 conversation concerning IDEALIST/TACKLE missions between Brigadier General Ross of OSA and Colonel Yost of your Staff.
 - B. Memo from NRO to General Ross dated 16 December 1969; Subject: Aircraft/Drone Overflight Missions (BYE 13447-69)

1. During the subject conversation Colonel Yost proposed that specific IDEALIST/TACKLE overflight routes be provided the 303 Committee for approval. This would be a change from our current practice of seeking 303 approvals for a bank of four unspecified China Mainland overflights, in addition to the four peripheral flights 20 miles off the China Mainland. These flights are based on current USIB and COMIREX target requirements.

2. In view of the possibility of the resumption of China overflights and the operational considerations concerning our present mission planning, it is considered appropriate to review for your information the current procedures used by the Office of Special Activities in developing and designing IDEALIST/TACKLE flight routes.

Handle Via
BYEMAN
Control System Only

IDEALIST/TACKLE

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

912-30-006 TAB D

~~TOP SECRET~~
IDEALIST/TACKLE

BYE 8685/69
Page 2

3. Detailed flight routes are prepared considering the ChiCom air defense system, the COMIREX priority target list for China, the U-2R collection capability (photography and Sigint), weather factors for the area, and flight characteristics and defensive systems of the U-2. Analysis of these factors influences target approach headings, turn points, offset distances from known SAM sites, and on-off times for the collection sensors. After being approved internally and by the GRC, details concerning the specific flight route are constantly monitored to insure route updating with the latest available intelligence information. Toward this end, the ChiCom air defense order-of-battle is reviewed daily for changes as are the periodic COMIREX target lists to insure updating for optimum routing where necessary. Thus a specific route can be modified several times prior to its actual use. Situations such as changing weather, SA-2 site study along proposed route, or a late US or GRC collection requirement occasionally require minor routing changes after the mission is alerted 24 hours prior to launch.

4. It is significant to note that there is seldom a problem of redundant target coverage from the GRC standpoint. The U. S. Government has not shared the results of all satellite and aircraft/drone missions with the GRC. The GRC U-2 operations over the mainland and along the China coast have continued to be one of the prime sources of electronic and photographic intelligence for the GRC. These missions are flown under the sponsorship of the GRC and in recent cases the routes reflect the personal interest of the Generalissimo.

Handle Via
BYEMAN
Control System Only

IDEALIST/TACKLE
~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~
IDEALIST/TACKLE

BYE 8685/69
Page 3

5. For the above reasons, we would like to continue our procedure of requesting 303 Committee approval for a given number of overflights each month without reference to specific flight tracks. We are looking forward to a return as soon as possible to the system which was in effect prior to seizure of the Pueblo wherein the 303 Committee granted approval of these overflights each month. Such a method of operation allows us the flexibility we require to capitalize on short weather breaks and to make maximum use of the GRC willingness to accept responsibility for these missions.



CARL E. DUCKETT

Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

Handle Via
BYEMAN
Control System Only

IDEALIST/TACKLE
~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION