



~~TOP SECRET~~
SPECIAL HANDLING

19 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Cuban Reconnaissance - BLUE MOON

Today I prepared the attached BLUE MOON Cover Plan taking the approach that the U. S. denies everything because it has too much to lose by admitting anything. (see Atch No. 1)

At about 1500 hours, I met with:

Dr. Charyk
Colonel Martin
Colonel Geary
Colonel Steakley

to discuss the plan. There was a strong ground swell from Colonels Geary and Steakley that one "had to admit it, if caught, because they know." I do not understand this rationale: the pilot himself has everything to lose by admitting the facts. Attachment No. 1 shows Dr. Charyk's recommended changes in ink. Attachment No. 2 is final hard copy. We distributed this on 19 October 1962 at 1700-1800 hours to everyone except CIA.

Paul E. Worthman
PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

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SPECIAL HANDLING

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT
TO OPERATION BLUE MOON

I. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Operation BLUE MOON is low altitude 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 F8U aircraft.

II. 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 U. S. Navy is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective, using F8U aircraft.

III. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:

A. Hostile

Cuba

B. Other

Puerto Rico
Jamaica
Bahamas

Haiti
Dominican Republic

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

A. General Cover Story:

1. ~~In the event of an incident, the Department of State spokesman, in response to queries at 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:~~

A comprehensive ~~summary~~ rationale for the Operation BLUE MOON is found in the.

"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 of the Caribbean 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.~~

2. ~~CINCLANT will be advised of the foregoing and instructed to refer any press inquiries to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, OSD (Mr. Sylvester).~~

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3. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

4. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Department of State (Mr Hillsman)

B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of F8U aircraft on a training/staging base requires no explanation.

C. Incident over Hostile Territory (See III, A):

1. Cover Story:

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy his aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base, he will head off-shore, contact the base by pre-arranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he ^{will} ~~may, if~~ ~~provide name, rank, serial number, and was from this information~~ queried, 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.

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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 refer to the background statement (see IV, A) and vigorously protest Cuban action against a legitimate peripheral surveillance flight.

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

D. Incident over Other Territory Outside the U. S. (see III, B):

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of F-80 aircraft on
The Department of State spokesman will immediately issue a statement in which he will refer to the General Cover Story (see IV, A). (N. B. - Instructions to the pilot are to secure the aircraft through local assistance to prevent damage and pilferage and to contact the local U. S. Consulate to assist him in communicating with his emergency contacts.)

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

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*no training/stepping
mission requires
no explanation*

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E. Hostile Protest Without Incident:

1. Cover Story:

There will be no comment.
~~The Department of State spokesman will refer to the General Cover Story (see IV, A), and deny knowledge of overflight of Cuba.~~ *No comment.*

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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

1. Cover Story:

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

b. If aircraft shows no battle damage, no cover story is required (see IV, B).

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

~~CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison)~~

~~V. The following offices or individuals have been briefed on this cover plan by Colonel Ralph D. Steakley and have been instructed to refer all queries to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, OSD (Mr Sylvester):~~

CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison)

V. CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison) has been briefed on this cover plan by Colonel Ralph D. Steakley and has been instructed to refer all queries to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, OSD (Mr. Sylvester)

VI. The following individuals have been furnished a copy of this document for internal coordination with cleared persons within their respective organizations:

- Dr Joseph V. Charyk Department of Defense
- Brig Gen Edward G. Lansdale Department of Defense
- Mr Thomas Parrott Executive Office to the President
- Mr Roger Hilsman Department of State
- Dr Herbert Scoville Central Intelligence Agency
- Colonel Ralph D. Steakley Department of Defense (JCS)

VII. 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.

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VIII. The National Reconnaissance Office will notify each agency of any changes to this plan. Requests for alterations are to be coordinated with the NRO.

NRO Contact Colonel Paul E. Holtzman
Office Telephone OR 7-9389, Washington, D.C.
Home Telephone Washington D.C.

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT

TO OPERATION BLUE MOON

I. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Operation BLUE MOON is low altitude photographic reconnaissance of selected military and intelligence targets on the Island of Cuba. The instrument to be used to accomplish the objective is the F8U aircraft.

II. 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 U. S. Navy is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective, using F8U aircraft.

III. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:

A. Hostile

Cuba

B. Other

Puerto Rico

Jamaica

Bahamas

Haiti

Dominican Republic

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

A. General Cover Story:

1. A comprehensive rationale for Operation BLUE MOON is found in the final communique of the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Foreign

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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."

The United States has intensified its surveillance of the Caribbean 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.

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of an F8U aircraft on a training/staging base requires no explanation.

C. Incident over Hostile Territory (See III, A):

1. Cover Story:

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy his aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base, he will head off-shore, contact the base by pre-arranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will provide name, rank, serial number, and no further information.

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2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

D. Incident Over Other Territory Outside the U.S. (see III, B):

1. Cover Story:

None required. The presence of an F8U aircraft on a training/staging mission requires no explanation.

E. Hostile Protest Without Incident:

1. Cover Story:

There will be no comment.

2. Responsible Action Office: Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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

1. Cover Story:

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

b. If aircraft shows no battle damage, no cover story is required (see IV, B).

2. Responsible Action Office:

Department of Defense (Dr Charyk)

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3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release:

Department of State (Mr Hilsman)

V. CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison) has been briefed on this cover plan by Colonel Ralph D. Steakley and has been instructed to refer all queries to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, OSD (Mr Sylvester).

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VIII. The National Reconnaissance Office will notify each agency of any changes to this plan. Requests for alterations are to be coordinated with the NRO.

NRO Contact
Office Telephone
Home Telephone

Colonel Paul E. Worthman
OX 7-9389, Washington, DC
 Washington, DC

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