

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001200040002-5

1 May 1958

Gard

General E. E. Partridge, USAF
Commander-in-Chief
North American Air Defense Command
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear General Partridge,

Your letter of 22 April is very encouraging to our efforts to obtain critical intelligence information. We are certainly determined to avoid, if at all possible, being caught by some "technological surprise".

Possibilities for technological improvement of the air-breathing vehicle and its possible uses to which you allude are provocative. We have been of late giving these matters close study and will continue to do so.

As you point out, our over-all defense posture in the face of gaps in intelligence poses for national authorities a very difficult question. Naturally, we in intelligence are eager to do all that we can to identify the real threats so that national defense expenditures need not be applied to preparations against all possible threats.

We were only too glad to provide the briefing on 9 April, and we will want to bring you up-to-date when and if we have additional material that warrants your attention. I appreciate your letter and your offer of assistance for which I would not hesitate to ask should occasion warrant.

ORIGINATOR:

Sincerely yours,



Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

PS/DCI

PS/DCI: JQR:cw

1&2- Addressee

3-DDCI

4&5-DCI ⑤ ER via reading

6-SA/PD/DCI w/cy 1 TS-164983

7-PS/DCI

cpc
DDCI
2 may 58

MAY 2 1958

TS-164983

Copy 4 of 7

TOP SECRET

25X1

22

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001200040002-5

**NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
ENT AIR FORCE BASE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**

22 April 1958

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

**Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.**

Dear Mr. Dulles:

You will recall the briefing I received on 8 April on your very important reconnaissance project.

The briefing was a real education for me and since receiving it I have realized more and more the importance of what I saw and heard and the actual and potential impact of this project on my own command responsibilities. If one were to catalogue the information made available as a result of this project, against the information one would have had without it, the extreme importance of this work would be more fully realized. The information produced is strategic warning of the highest order insofar as the mission of this command is concerned.

There are obvious dangers in connection with this work which extend far beyond its operational aspects and which must be weighed against other factors. I should like to suggest however that the danger of being caught by complete technological surprise is also real and might well in the long run be the greater danger. The recently published NSC document 5802/1 states that it is imperative that we do not suffer "technological surprise." In my opinion, it is impossible to prevent this with any of the other collection systems now available to us.

The portion of the project which has to do with processing and analyzing the material received is obviously receiving the highest priority by most competent hands. The part of the project concerned with collection concerns me because of restrictions which appear to be threatening the project, and because of the feeling expressed to me by a member of your organization that technologically we have reached a limit of improvement insofar as the air-breathing vehicle is concerned. I do not necessarily agree with this feeling for the following reasons:

This document consists of 2 pages.

This is the No. 2 of 3 copies.

#164983

Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001200040002-5

TOP SECRET

58-194

Courier No. CX8-987

#2

Pers Ltr to Mr. Allen W. Dulles, 22 April 1958 - Continued

In the first place, we are a long way from exhausting the exploitation of the earth's air envelope. We are learning more about air-breathing operations every day and a great deal of knowledge exists within our industry which, if applied for a specific purpose, could produce a better vehicle. Next, the fear of surface-to-air missile development can be met for some time to come by staying away from areas in which these missiles might be deployed. In addition, we know from our own experience that it is extremely difficult to acquire, track, and destroy an elusive target with these ground-to-air systems. And lastly, again as expressed by the National Security Council in NSC 5802/1, this information must be collected even though grave risks might be involved.

You are more aware than I of the impact of gaps in our information on the development of our overall defense posture. Lacking firm data we may well be spending billions of dollars for the development of the wrong system or for the development of a military posture which will be inadequate at the time when it will be most needed. From this it follows that it would be far better to spend a portion of our national wealth in getting the necessary correct answers than in applying a great deal of our national wealth in trying to react to all possible threats. The same reasoning would follow when considering the allocation of our political and psychological resources. It would be far better in my opinion to take a temporary political or psychological set-back now if this would put us in a stronger national position in the future. These are, of course, ideas which must be carefully considered at the highest national level and are offered to you as of possible assistance in your dealings at that level.

May I express my thanks and appreciation for having had this interesting and valuable information made available to me. Please be assured that I stand ready to assist you on this project in any way that I can.

Sincerely yours,

E. E. PARTRIDGE
General, USAF
Commander-In-Chief

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION FOR UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	[Redacted]		
25X1	305 Admin		
3	ER. File	5/6 - 1/5 -	
4			
5			
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Jim: The Director has asked that a brief reply to the attached letter from General Partridge be prepared for his signature -- to include an expression of our appreciation for his letter and the points he raises are being studied.

25X1 FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
[Redacted]	

TOP SECRET

SIGNATURE RECORD AND COVER SHEET

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION		REGISTRY	
SOURCE 25X1	[] /cw	CIA CONTROL NO.	25X1
PS/DCI: []		TS-164988	
DOC. NO.		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED	
DOC. DATE 1 May 1958		1724 1958	
COPY NO. 4 of 7		LO []	
NUMBER OF PAGES 1			
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS 0			

ATTENTION: This form will be attached to each Top Secret document received by the Central Intelligence Agency or classified Top Secret within the CIA and will remain attached to the document until such time as it is downgraded, destroyed, or transmitted outside of CIA. Access to Top Secret material is limited to those individuals whose official duties relate to the material. Each alternate or assistant Top Secret Control Officer who receives and/or releases the attached Top Secret material will sign this form and indicate period of custody in the left-hand columns provided. The name of each individual who has seen the Top Secret document and the date of handling should be indicated in the right-hand columns.

REFERRED TO OFFICE	RECEIVED		RELEASED		SEEN BY	
	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	NAME AND OFFICE SYMBOL
25X1	[]	5/1/58		5/1/58		
SAPD/bcz		5/5/58	1100	5/5/58	1115	
ER		5/1/58		5/1/58		
DCI		5/3/58		5/6	245	
ER		5/7/58		5/7/58		
	<i>File</i>					

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *air force*

NOTICE OF DETACHMENT: When this form is detached from Top Secret material it shall be completed in the appropriate spaces below and transmitted to Central Top Secret Control for record.

THE TOP SECRET MATERIAL DETACHED FROM THIS FORM WAS:	BY (Signature)
DOWNGRADED <input type="checkbox"/>	
DESTROYED <input type="checkbox"/>	OFFICE
DISPATCHED (OUTSIDE CIA) TO	
	DATE

TOP SECRET