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24 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Suggested Answer to Soviet Protests re Reconnaissance Photography

IN CASE : 461L recon package should fall into Soviet hands and a protest ensue the following course of action might be desirable. (It is reasonable to suppose that Soviets would object to photography per se, invasion of air space and possibly that balloon vehicle could be used to carry weapons.)

1. Reply that the USSR began the business with Sputniks I and II which could indeed be used as espionage vehicles and certainly could be adapted to ICBM use, i.e., taken in conjunction with Khrushchev's hearty speeches of being able to hit any place on earth with a rocket, the USSR was scarcely demonstrating peaceful intent.

2. That instead of, as the Soviets have accused, violating their air space by military or other aircraft, we have carefully refrained from so doing.

3. This, despite the fact that the Soviets have refused mutual inspection or open skies policy because they wish to hide their warlike preparations from the world.

4. Admit that we have indeed been flying high altitude and completely harmless reconnaissance balloons over all interesting parts of the earth's surface in order to be warned of massive military preparations of any and all kinds, most especially concentrations of offensive arms or capabilities.

5. Announce that we are prepared to invite a UN inspection team to our launching operations to ensure them that the vehicles are harmless and have built-in safety features.

NRO review(s) completed.

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6. Announce that we are prepared to turn over to the UN all photography obtained from high altitude balloons, including that taken over the US.

7. Announce that what we have obtained to date shows: extra-long runways, missile launching sites, massive munitions concentrations, very large triple security areas to which no foreigner is admitted, large concentrations of long-range submarines equipped to fire missiles, great concentrations of bombers, etc., and ask: Why is the Soviet hiding them? What is it they do not want the world to know? Are the objects in these photographs preparations for defense alone? (Obviously we could include U-2 take -- impossible to tell from what platform a photo was taken)

8. Offer, under UN supervision, to continue a stepped-up high-altitude balloon recon program and, if desirable, add high altitude plane recon so that the Security Council could be kept currently abreast of all military preparations throughout the world. Obviously, we would invite the USSR to participate as well as other nations. The main requirement in the case of airplane or other manned vehicle recon would be that an authorized UN observer and/or a representative of the country to be over-flown go along.

9. What this may suggest is the desirability of:

a. Deliberately dropping a 461L package in order to stimulate the protest so that the above course of action could be initiated,

b. Taking bull by horns, if we get away without a protest and just offering systems and take for operation under UN control as above outlined.

Fred. Ayer

FREDERICK AYER, JR.

Consultant to the Secretary of the Air Force

Copy 1 - Addressee ✓
2 - Mr. Quarles
3 - Mr. Douglas
4 - Mr. Cumming
5 - Gen. Cutler
6 - Mr. Ayer

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

26 April 1958

I am returning herewith the memorandum from Mr. Ayer about the 461-L Project. As I suggested when I saw you on Saturday, 26 April, I have written him a note which may serve in lieu of any formal action or comment by you at this time. According to his own memorandum he is leaving for Europe on the 28th so I do not see that he can do anything more about this matter until his return on 5 May.

I do not think there is anything you have to do about this in the meanwhile. I fear, however, that you will eventually have to express your views to the Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and quite possibly the President. As of this moment, I hesitate to recommend what your views should be. I feel we probably need some further internal discussions after my return.

R. M. Bissell, Jr.
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.

✓ cc: General Cabell

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

The Director, upon noting the attached, indicated he would like to have your views on this.

*Comments given orally
to Mr. DeLoach by Mr. B.*



3 May 58

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