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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
United States Air Force

SUBJECT: United States Prisoners of War Remaining
in Communist Custody After Termination of
Exchange of Prisoners Under Korean
Armistice Agreement Terms.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum dated 16 March 1954 on the above subject, asking Central Intelligence Agency to take action to locate, identify and recover U.S. POW's in Communist custody.

2. I agree with you fully that any accomplishment in this field would unquestionably have a salutary effect upon morale and would be of significant value in our national psychological program.

3. This Agency has had a continuing requirement for the development of information on the location of U.S. POW's. Any intelligence developed on this subject will be discussed promptly with Headquarters, United States Air Force. CIA then will consider in each case what steps, if any, can be taken to effect the release of the POW's involved. The inherent operational difficulties which would surround such an undertaking are clearly apparent, I am sure, to you.

4. The undertaking of any such action is predicated upon the availability of adequate operational intelligence. This agency does not have at the present time such adequate operational intelligence on which to base plans for liberating POW's under Communist control. Nor is it anticipated

Revere Hew

that CIA will have significant capabilities along these lines so long as operating conditions continue to follow the present pattern.

5. In compliance with your request, CIA will continue to endeavor to develop the required intelligence on POW's in Communist hands and will maintain appropriate contact with your headquarters on this subject.

Reuraction

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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[Redacted]

24 March 1954

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*Concur
CPC
DDCI
v 4 May*

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Attachment: 1 - as stated in
par. 6 above

COORDINATED:

25X1 [Redacted]
Chief, PE Div.

25X1 [Redacted]
D Chief FI

25X1 [Redacted]

23 March 1954

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