

*appeal*



16 October 2006

Mr. Scott Koch  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Reference: F-2006-01043

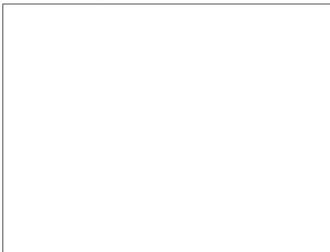
Dear Mr. Koch:

I wish to formally invoke my right to appeal the extensive redactions made to the "Studies in Intelligence" article received per my 24 May 2006 FOIA request.

At this late date in my opinion the range and scope of redactions is both too broad and unnecessary. Fifty-four years after the fact a conservative interpretation serves little if any real secrecy purpose. I can only speculate whether the redacted sections contain references previously cleared. I am therefore appealing based on the following heartfelt arguments:

1. This incident took place over five decades ago. I can't imagine sources and methods concerns apply due to one irrefutable fact -- before the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted access to the Jilin crash site for the US JPAC Search & Recovery teams, undoubtedly the Chinese government thoroughly examined their archival records of this incident.
2. The portions of Mr. Richard Fecteau's debriefing released previously under FOIA strongly indicate that there is nothing about Operation TROPIC, the personnel, techniques and sources & methods that the Chinese haven't known since shortly after the capture of the two intelligence officers.
3. As proof of the above, the Chinese readily agreed to allow the JPAC recovery teams unlimited access to the crash site, a first for a Cold War repatriation effort inside their boundary. Nor did they force the USG to jump through hoops in order to gain access.
4. As demonstrated by their full cooperation, this incident is not a sensitive matter for the other side.
5. The declassified Operation TROPIC material I received from an earlier FOIA request contained greater detail than found in the recent Studies in Intelligence article.
6. There are countless open-source references in the public domain pertaining to this infamous Cold War incident. Its time the many unfortunate myths surrounding this incident are put to bed.

While it doesn't hold sway with the appeal process, I would like to add a brief personal perspective. The early Cold War years was not a period friendly to families of missing personnel, especially the contractors. It was a different era. For the three elderly siblings of Captains Schwartz and Snoddy, a better understanding of the mission may add a degree of closure.



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