

# THE U-2 AFFAIR

## Powers, 27-Mission Veteran, Begins Fateful Flight

By DAVID WISE and THOMAS B. ROSS

He was thirty years old and he had flown more than 500 hours in the U-2. He had completed 27 missions in it since reporting to the Middle East four years before. Each had been a grueling and lonely ride along the edges of space. But the worst ride for any U-2 pilot was the silent flight over the Soviet Union.

Francis Gary Powers was flying there that day for the Central Intelligence Agency.

On his hip was a noiseless 22-caliber semiautomatic pistol.

In his logbook were the notations: 1 May 1960. Sortie Number 4154. Takeoff 0126 GMT (6:26 a.m. local time), delayed one-half hour.

### Headed For Russia's "Canaveral"

On his map, a red and blue line traced a 3,788-mile flight from Peshawar, Pakistan, to Bodo, Norway. It would take him 2,919 miles over the Soviet Union, past Stalinabad, Aralsk, Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, Kirov, Archangel, and Murmansk.

The plane was headed straight for Tyura Tam, the Soviet Cape Canaveral, eighty miles to the east of the Aral Sea. The Tyura Tam and Kapustin Yar, another test center southeast of Stalingrad, were the only intercontinental ballistic missile sites that American intelligence had located in the Soviet Union.

But on April 9, a U-2 had spotted traces of disturbing diggings along the route Powers was to follow that day. Local agents and electronic eavesdropping deepened suspicions that the Soviets were building their first operational ICBM base.

The prime purpose of the May 1 flight was to photograph the construction before the Russians could camouflage the site under cover of the thick fog which blankets the north of the Soviet Union in the summer months.

Powers had the equipment. He was carrying a remarkable camera with a rotating 944.7 millimeter lens which peered but the light when holes in the belly of the

25X1A

This is the first of 14 articles condensed from the book, THE U-2 AFFAIR, which tells the story behind the most explosive espionage case of the 20th century. © Copyright 1962, by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. Published in New York by Random House, Inc.