

MAY 5 1965

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STATINTL

POWERS (340)

ADVANCE FOR 6:30 A.M. EST (CORREST) TODAY

(ADVANCE) NEW YORK, MAY 5 (AP)-THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN A SECRET CEREMONY HAS AWARDED A MEDAL TO FRANCIS GARY POWERS, THE U2 PILOT WHOSE CRASH DEEP INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION "SHOOK THE WORLD--AND CAUSED A GOOD DEAL OF ANGUISH TO THE CIA," THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE SAID TODAY.

A WASHINGTON DISPATCH NOTED THAT THE CRASH FIVE YEARS AGO LAST SATURDAY "CHILLED EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND ENDED ANY MEANINGFUL CONTACT BETWEEN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND THEN SOVIET PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV." THE STORY ATISIMED OHA

KHRUSHCHEV." THE STORY ALSO NOTED THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN PARIS COLLAPSED IN THE WAKE OF THE U2 UPROAR. EISENHOWER SAID AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE THAT PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER RUSSIA HAD BEEN STOPPED AND WOULD NOT BE RESUMED. BUT KHRUSHCHEV STORMED OUT OF THE MEETING.

THE COPYRIGHT STORY ALSO SAID IN PART:

POWERS, WHO OSTENSIBLY WAS A TEST PILOT FOR THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP., MANUFACTURER OF THE U2, RECEIVED THE MEDAL IN A CEREMONY ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE CIA'S HEADQUARTERS IN LANGLEY, VA. HE ACTUALLY HAD BEEN A \$30,000-A-YEAR PILOT FOR THE CIA.

POWERS, NOW 35, IS NOT SUPPOSED TO WEAR THE MEDAL AND IS NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL ANYBODY ABOUT IT.

WHEN THE HERALD TRIBUNE ASKED A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIA TO CONFIRM THE AWARD, HE REPLIED: "NO COMMENT AT ALL. HE'S A FORMER EMPLOYEE. WE DON'T COMMENT ON FORMER EMPLOYEES."

IT WAS RELIABLY LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRET MEDAL WAS AWARDED AT A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY SEVERAL TOP OFFICIALS.

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THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THE MEDAL: FIRST, WHY THE CIA WANTED TO BESTOW AN AWARD ON ITS MOST FAMOUS EMPLOYEE--ONE WHO BROUGHT THE AGENCY UNDER THE PUBLIC SCRUTINY WHICH IT ALWAYS TRIES TO AVOID; SECOND, WHY THE CIA WAITED FIVE YEARS.

IT IS KNOWN THAT PLANS FOR THE CEREMONY AND MEDAL WERE MADE PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF JOHN A. MCCONE AS CIA DIRECTOR. PRESIDENT JOHNSON SWORE IN ADM. WILLIAM RABORN AS THE NEW CIA DIRECTOR LAST WEDNESDAY.

--DASH--

POWERS, CAPTURED BY THE SOVIETS, WAS TRADED TO THIS COUNTRY IN 1962 FOR THE SOVIET MASTER SPY, COL. RUDOLF ABEL, WHO HAD BEEN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEW YORK CITY TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON.

LAST NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOVIET OFFICIALDOM ADMITTED THAT ABEL WAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE FOR THE SOVIET UNION WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED IN NEW YORK IN 1957.

A SOVIET SECURITY FORCES GENERAL, DURING A TELEVISION TALK IN MOSCOW ABOUT SOVIET ESPIONAGE WORK DURING WORLD WAR II, SINGLED OUT ABEL AS AN OUTSTANDING SOVIET INTELLIGENCE AGENT.

THE GENERAL SAID ABEL IS NOW LIVING UNDER HIS REAL NAME--WHICH THE GENERAL DID NOT DISCLOSE--AND HE SAID ABEL HAD RECEIVED HIGH GOVERNMENT DECORATIONS.

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