

MAY 10 1960

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00140

FOIA b3b

Red Photos of Spy Plane Wreck 'Faked,' Lockheed Expert Says

By Albon B. Halley
Staff Reporter

CPYRIGHT

...that of a U-2
...the National Aero-
...and Space Agency, last
...conceded that the
...NASA plane might have been
...photo reconnaissance mis-
...sion over Russian territory.

This came after Khrushchev
announced that the civilian
pilot, Francis G. Powers, 30,
of Pound, Va., had been cap-
tured near Sverdlovsk, in the
center of the Ural Mountains,
300 miles east of Moscow.

Ten of the single-seat U-2
jets were purchased by NASA
from Lockheed in 1956 for use
at what NASA called "flying
weather laboratories." Since
then, these planes have oper-
ated from bases in California,
New York, Alaska, England,
Germany, Turkey, Pakistan,
Japan, Okinawa and the Philip-
pines, NASA spokesmen said.

The Strategic Air Command
now has about 15 U-2s for use
in studying infra-red radiation
at high altitudes, a SAC
spokesman at Offutt Air Force
Base, Neb., said yesterday.

The U-2 utilizes a specially
designed Pratt & Whitney J-57
engine, a sailplane-type wing
and minimum structural
weight for its high altitude
capabilities. Its manufacturers
have said it was designed to
operate at "heights exceeding
50,000 feet," but reports put
the U-2's service ceiling at
several thousand feet in excess
of that figure.

The U-2, with a top speed
rated at just over 500 miles
per hour, has no announced
military application. To save
weight, the plane has a single,
double-track main landing
gear and a double-track tail
wheel. The wing tips, which
contain small jettisonable
wheel used in takeoff, act as
skids when landing speed
drops.

(continue)
cont

News photographs of air-
craft wreckage which Soviet
Premier Nikita Khrushchev
claimed came from an Amer-
ican U-2 plane downed by a
Russian rocket were "faked,"
a top Lockheed Aircraft Corp.
official charged yesterday.

Clarence L. (Kelly) John-
son, a Lockheed vice president
who designed the high-altitude
weather research jet plane,
hinted that the Russians had
captured intact a U-2 and its
pilot — missing from their
Adana, Turkey, base since
early last week.

"After spending the best
part of the weekend analyzing
the photographs with my top
technical people, I am con-
vinced that the Russians, for
some reason, have released
pictures of some other air-
plane crash," Johnson said.

"I think the crash photo-
graphs released by Russia are
those of one of their own
Beagle bombers," he added.
"It would be very interesting
to know why they have hidden
the U-2."

"I do not believe they shot
down the U-2 by either a mis-
sile or another aircraft. If

they have the U-2 it is because
...mechanical or oxygen
failure caused it to descend
far below its normal cruising
altitude."

He said the photographs re-
leased in Moscow last Thurs-
day did not match the design
characteristic of the single-
engined U-2 which Khrush-
chev said was shot down on
May 1 while on a spying mis-
sion deep into Soviet terri-
tory.

Johnson, chief of engineer-
ing and research for Lock-
heed, said that after studying
the original wire service
photograph of the wreckage,
Lockheed technicians agreed

that "not one single U-2 part
could be identified."
In his prepared statement,
he cited these points that led
Lockheed experts to believe
the Russian photograph was
faked:

- "The wing section in the
left foreground is definitely
not that of a U-2. The wing
taper is wrong, as is the struc-
tural pattern of the ribs and
beams.
- "The heavy structural ele-
ment at the top of the photo-
graph has no counterpart in
the U-2.
- "If the wreckage of the
U-2 were as bad as that shown,
it would be extremely unlikely
that Mr. Khrushchev would
have any photograph to wave
around in public. Much of the
wreckage is damaged by fire,
which might well destroy the
film.
- "The large number of
men, women and children
shown in the photo certainly
would not be allowed so close
to such an important piece of
wreckage at this time. Russian
experts certainly would im-
pound it for detailed study."

The State Department, ap-
parently accepting the wreck-