

BYE-1808-62

28 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of Special Group, 28 June 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor, Mr. McCone, Mr. Nitze, and Mr. Hughes
Colonel Steakley and Captain Grayson were also present.

1. CIA Monthly Forecast of Overflights

The CIA schedule for July was noted. Specific approval was given by the Group to the three CORONA sorties scheduled. It was noted that USIB is considering substituting an ARGON for one CORONA and the Group deferred to the judgment of USIB on this.

2. Reconnaissance of China and North Viet-Nam

Mr. McCone said that he is asking COMOR to review the four flights approved for North Viet-Nam which have not yet been flown, as well as the three outstanding for South China, to justify the current validity of the projected targets.

25X1 He said that three high-performance U-2's (U-75) are now on
[redacted] pilots available. These will be used for
all TACKLE missions. In addition CIA American pilots have been sent
25X1 to [redacted] and DOD has made available there two of the lower
performance vehicles (J-57). These will be available for the North
Viet-Nam missions.

The Group then considered the COMOR paper on reconnaissance of Communist China, which was considered by USIB yesterday and forwarded to the Special Group. After discussion, the following decisions were made:

a. Tab A (objectives relating to the Taiwan Straits) was approved.

b. Tab B (South China objectives) was approved. Mr. McCone commented that these targets should be covered in any case and the flights should proceed as soon as weather permits, without being held up for the review which he had previously mentioned.

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NSC review(s) completed.

c. Mr. McCone said that he is not yet ready to recommend further missions over Northeast China, referred to in Tab C. Any such recommendation will depend on further analysis of coverage of

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d. With respect to the list of Chinese targets of a generally strategic nature, contained in Tab D, it was decided that COMOR should examine them further in light of any South China missions that might be successfully mounted in the near future and information from satellite photography, and that specific suggested routes should then be worked out. These will be presented to the Special Group individually. The same decision applied to Tab E (Surveillance Objectives in China). Mr. McCone said he hoped to have the specifics by next week.

The DCI also commented that he would like to be in a position to have approvals for TACKLE missions targeted against the Chinese Communist buildup "banked" so as to have two approvals constantly available in case of a favorable break in the weather. It was noted that two such approvals are currently outstanding.

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Thomas A. Parrott

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Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatric
Mr. McCone
General Taylor

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This document contains information referring to Projects:

..... ARGON CORONA TACKLE

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