

~~TOP SECRET~~

February 18, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

At General Twining's request, Colonels Andrews and Saunders met with me today in connection with ChiNat RB-57 reconnaissance flights over the Chinese mainland. These were suspended when an aircraft crashed near Peiping last October. Intensive analysis indicates that the most likely explanation is mechanical trouble causing a loss of altitude with the aircraft then shot down by the Chinese Communists. There is no way of knowing whether or not the pilot parachuted.

Defense now proposes to resume operations under existing authority, continuing to use RB-57 aircraft, and to evaluate the operation after each mission. The first missions would be flown in the south. This amounts essentially to a resumption of operations under existing authority. I gave the foregoing information to the President to see if he had any adverse reaction to the proposed resumption. He did not. He did state that no flights should approach the area of Vladivostok.

I notified General Twining's office (Colonel Sherrill) of the foregoing.



A. J. Goodpaster  
Brigadier General, USA



~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NLE 2012-90 #1
By	MMK NLDDE Date 5/8/15