

File A-3-14(1)
also

~~TOP SECRET~~
HANDLE VIA **BYEMAN**
CONTROL SYSTEM



*Sub B (Gen I)
A 10/16/72*

OO RUXQBAA
DE RUXQAA 286 3192244
ZNY XXXXX YYY
O 142243Z
BT
XXXXX

987
PASS CHARGE

DISTRIBUTION		
SAFES	A	I
SAFUS		
DD		
SS-1		
SS-2		
SS-3		
SS-4		
SS-5		
SS-6		
SS-7		
COMP		
SS-WRF		
RF-11		
FILE		

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~TOP SECRET~~ 142243Z NOV 72 CITE WHIG 1443.

IMMEDIATE CHARGE
GAMBIT SECUR
SECTION 1 OF 2
FOR GENERAL ALLEN AND MR. COHEN FROM MAJOR COYLE.
SUBJECT: DEBRIS RECOVERY [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSMISSION OF PAPERS PREPARED FOR DR. MCLUCAS PRIOR TO HIS TRIP. HE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL HIS RETURN BEFORE MAKING A FURTHER DECISION AS TO A SEARCH. FURTHER DECISIONS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE THE CONSENT OF MR. LAIRD IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MATTER AND DR. NUTTER'S (OSD/ISA) PERSONAL INTEREST. THUS FAR, THE ENTIRE MATTER HAS BEEN HANDLED EXCLUSIVE OF STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FEAR OF PUBLICITY AND FOOT DRAGGING. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL INFO FROM [redacted] AS TO THE

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PAGE 2 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~
PROBABILITIES OF CONDUCTING AN INQUIRY OR LOW-KEY SEARCH WITHOUT FANFARE. WE ARE PREPARING ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FOR DR. MCLUCAS ON HIS RETURN. YOUR SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE AND MUCH APPRECIATED.

QUOTE.
MEMORANDUM FOR DR. MCLUCAS
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR POSSIBLE 4335 DEBRIS RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER ADDITIONAL DEBRIS. ATTACHED IS A POINT PAPER WHICH LISTS FOUR OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. THESE OPTIONS ARE:

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA **BYEMAN**

- 1. NO SEARCH.
- 2. SEARCH ONLY MILITARY RESERVATIONS USING MILITARY PERSONNEL.
- 3. SEARCH LIMITED AREAS SPECIFIED BY AEROSPACE CORPORATION.
- 4. SEARCH ENTIRE GROUND TRACK AREA OF THE [REDACTED]

THERE ARE VARIATIONS ON THESE OPTIONS POSSIBLE, SUCH AS CONDUCTING DISCREET INQUIRIES AS OPPOSED TO A PHYSICAL SEARCH

PAGE 3 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~

UNDER THE SEARCH OPTIONS OR "PUTTING THE WORD OUT" TO APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO BE AWARE OF THE LOCATING OF ANY SPACE DEBRIS. ALL OPTIONS AND VARIATIONS OF SEARCH RUN SOME RISK OF PUBLICITY AND REQUIRE A COVER STORY OF VARYING COMPLETENESS:

THE MARGINAL RISK POTENTIAL FROM THE PRACTICAL AND SECURITY STANDPOINTS SUGGESTS THAT THE LEAST RISK OPTION IS TO CONDUCT NO SEARCH OR INQUIRY. THIS ASSUMES THAT THE SIX MONTHS WHICH HAVE ELAPSED BETWEEN THE IMPACT AND THE PRESENT IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. A MAJOR CONSIDERATION THEN IS TO ASSESS THE RELATIVE VALUE OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL DEBRIS FOR TECHNICAL AND SECURITY REASONS VERSUS THE LIKELIHOOD OF RECOVERING THE RESIDUE ITEMS WITHOUT INCURRING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE PUBLIC ATTENTION.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS LOCATED AND RECOVERED [REDACTED] QUITE LIKELY WOULD BE ANALYZED BEFORE BEING RETURNED TO U.S. CUSTODY. THUS FAR, THE EVENT HAS RECEIVED LITERALLY NO PUBLIC ATTENTION.

DR. MUTTER, ASD(CISA) AND HIS DEPUTY, MR. EAGLEBURGER ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR DIPLOMATIC REPERCUSSIONS AND THEY DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO EXPEND ADDITIONAL EFFORT. [REDACTED]

PAGE 4 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~

ON THE SURFACE, BEING EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, AT LEAST TOWARD THE RETURN OF PRESENTLY RECOVERED DEBRIS. THESE ITEMS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE HAVE ATTACHED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER THE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CURRENT RETRIEVAL AND POTENTIAL LOCATIONS OF ADDITIONAL DEBRIS.

IN CONSIDERING OUR NEXT STEP WE HAVE THREE ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. DECIDE NOT TO SEARCH FURTHER.
- 2. DECIDE TO INSTIGATE SOME SORT OF SEARCH BY PHYSICAL OR INQUIRY METHODS.
- 3. WAIT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.

WE RECOMMEND THE THIRD ALTERNATEVE. WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL YOUR RETURN FROM THE TRIP. BY THAT TIME WE SHOULD KNOW CONCLUSIVELY THE ORIGIN OF THE PRESENT DEBRIS: [REDACTED] ATTITUDES TOWARD FURTHER

HANDLE VIA DECLASSIFIED CONTROL SYSTEM

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

ASSISTANCE: AND THE LEVEL OF DECISION REQUIRED TO PROCEED FURTHER, IF THAT SEEMS TO BE A PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION. SIGNED MAJOR HAROLD S. COYLE, JR., MAJOR, USAF UNQUOTE.

PAGE 5 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~ QUOTE.

POINT PAPER ON

RECOVERY OF SPACE DEBRIS

ISSUE: IF THE RECOVERED ITEMS ARE SHOWN TO BE FROM MISSION 4335, THEN SHOULD A SEARCH BE CONDUCTED TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL PIECES OF DEBRIS?

OPTIONS: THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY FOUR DISCREET CHOICES RANGING FROM NO SEARCH TO AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH. OPTIONS LYING BETWEEN THE FOUR ARE POSSIBLE, SUCH AS DISCREET INQUIRIES IN PUBLIC OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AREAS WITHOUT CONDUCTING A PHYSICAL SEARCH.

A. NO SEARCH.

PROS:



- 2. MINIMUM RISK OF LOCAL ATTENTION TO THE RECOVERY.
- 3. MINIMUM RISK OF THIRD COUNTRY INTEREST.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PAGE 6 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~

4. CONSIDERS THE TIME FACTOR SINCE IMPACT AND THAT ADDITIONAL DEBRIS MAY BE UNLOCATABLE OR OTHERWISE LOST TO THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE SIX MONTH PERIOD INCLUDING THE SUMMER SEASON.

5. NO RESOURCE COST IS INCURRED IN SEARCH.

6. CONSIDERS THAT ADDITIONAL DEBRIS TURNING UP "NATURALLY" MAY BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. ON AN AD-HOC BASIS.

CONS:

1. LOSE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE WHICH RELATES TO SURVIVABILITY.

2. RISKING THAT LOCATABLE DEBRIS COULD EVENTUALLY FALL INTO IMPROPER HANDS.

B. SEARCH ONLY MILITARY RESERVATIONS ON LOW-KEY BASIS WITH MILITARY TROOPS.

PROS:

- 1. ONLY SMALL RISK OF ATTENTION BY LOCALS AND OTHERS.
- 2. PRESENTLY RECOVERED PIECES WERE LOCATED NEAR



3. USE ONLY MILITARY PERSONNEL, CHANNELS WITHIN THE



4. MINIMUM COVER STORY REQUIRED.

E-2 IMPDET

~~TOP SECRET~~

BT

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~TOP SECRET~~
CABLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM



N

00 RUXQBAA
DE RUXQAAA 287 3192044
ZNY XXXXX YYY
O 142043Z
BT
XXXXX

988
PASS CHARGE

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~TOP SECRET~~ 142043Z NOV 72 CITE WHIG 1443.
IMMEDIATE CHARGE
GAMBIT SECUR
FINAL SECTION OF 2

CONS:

1. ONLY LIMITED AREAS FOR SEARCH AVAILABLE.
2. SOME COSTS WILL BE INCURRED.
3.

C. SEARCH LIMITED AREAS SPECIFIED BY AEROSPACE CORP.
USING MILITARY PERSONNEL, OR ALTERNATIVELY, USING LOCAL
 AND MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PROS:

1. IF ESTIMATES ARE ACCURATE, WOULD MINIMIZE AREAS FOR SEARCH.
2. INCREASES PROBABILITY OF LOCATING PRIMARY COM-

PAGE 2 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~
ONENT DEBRIS, IF AVAILABLE.
3. INCREASE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING ADDITIONAL DATA ON SURVIVABILITY OF COMPONENTS.
4. MAY PREVENT PIECES FROM FALLING INTO IMPROPER HANDS.

CONS:

1. AEROSPACE DATA MAY BE INACCURATE
2. DEBRIS, IF RECOVERED ALREADY IN POPULATED AREAS, LIKELY WOULD HAVE PUBLICLY TURNED UP BY THIS POINT IN TIME.
3. HIGH RISK OF ATTENTION BEING DRAWN TO THE RETRIEVAL PROCESS.
4. EXCELLENT COVER STORY REQUIRED.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~
CABLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

▲

5. SOME MOBILIZATION OF SEARCHERS REQUIRED, [REDACTED]
MAY BE INCURRED WHICH REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT.
D. SEARCH THE ENTIRE GROUND TRACK AREA OF [REDACTED]
USING ALL APPROPRIATE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

PROS:

- 1. MAXIMIZES PROBABILITY OF LOCATING ADDITIONAL DEBRIS, ASSUMING AEROSPACE CORP. DATA ARE ACCURATE.
- 2. PROVIDES ASSURANCE THAT "NOT STONE IS UNTURNED."

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PAGE 3 WHIG 1443 ~~TOP SECRET~~

3. PROVIDES MAXIMUM CHANCE OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DATA.

CONS:

- 1. CUMBERSOME RESEARCH MECHANISM REQUIRED.
- 2. EXCELLENT COVER STORY REQUIRED.
- 3. MAXIMIZES RISK OF SECURITY PROBLEMS.
- 4. HIGH COST/HIGH REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT.

UNQUOTE. E-2 IMPDET

~~TOP SECRET~~

BT

N

N

N

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~
TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET