

Office of Special Activities, 1954-68
~~TS~~ CHRONOLOGY 8888-69



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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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1954-1968(b) (1)
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- 1 Feb Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr., is named Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordination (SA/PC/DCI) by the Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. Allen W. Dulles.
- 1 Jul SA/PC/DCI absorbs the Office of Intelligence Coordination (except the Intelligence Advisory Committee Secretariat) and the Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination, Mr. James Q. Reber, joins the Planning and Coordination Staff as Mr. Bissell's Assistant.
- 4 Jul The Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch establishes a task force under General Mark Clark to investigate CIA and answer Congressional criticism of the Agency. A Special Study Group, chaired by General James H. Doolittle, is assigned to investigate CIA's covert activities.
- 30 Sep The Doolittle group reports on its investigation of CIA and expresses the belief that every known technique should be used, and new ones developed, to increase U.S. intelligence by high altitude photographic reconnaissance and other means.
- 9 Oct A Technological Capabilities Panel of the Office of Defense Mobilization's "Surprise Attack Committee" under Dr. James R. Killian is set up with Dr. Edwin H. Land, President of Polaroid, as Chairman.
- 5 Nov The Technological Capabilities Panel, Project 3, in a letter to the DCI, proposes a program of photo reconnaissance flights over the USSR and recommends that CIA, with Air Force assistance, undertake such a program.
- 19 Nov CIA and USAF agree to pursue the TCP's proposal jointly; a meeting is held in the office of Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott with the DCI and DDCI present.

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- 23 Nov Members of Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) (forerunner to USIB) sign an open memorandum in support of a program of photographic reconnaissance of the Soviet Bloc.
- 24 Nov A meeting is held at the White House with President Eisenhower to present the CL-282 photo reconnaissance proposal of the Land Panel; the President approves the proposal as presented subject to a final look after the materiel is procured and before launching operations; approval is given verbally, not in writing.
- 3 Dec Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., having been directed by the DCI to take charge of the photo reconnaissance project, meets with [redacted] Chief, [redacted] Division, OSR, to arrange for management of the project on the CIA side.
- 4 Dec A meeting is held in the Pentagon to launch the joint CIA/USAF reconnaissance project; go-ahead is given to Lockheed and to Pratt & Whitney to proceed with manufacture of the aircraft and jet engines by Mr. Trevor Gardner, Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force for R&D.
- 6 Dec Cryptonym AQUATONE is assigned to the CL-282 project under Mr. Bissell's direction; a first headquarters of the project is set up as an adjunct to SA/PC/DCI in Administration (East) Building at 2430 E St., N. W.; Messrs. [redacted] and [redacted] Assistant [redacted] and secretary, comprised the initial project staff.
- 27 Dec A letter from Mr. Trevor Gardner to the DCI promises that the Air Force will furnish jet engines for the CL-282 aircraft as part of its contribution to the joint project.
- 27 Dec Mr. Bissell meets with the Director of the Budget, Mr. Rowland R. Hughes, to obtain release from the CIA Contingency Reserve of \$35 million for Project AQUATONE.
- 29 Dec The Bureau of the Budget approves withdrawal of \$35 million from the Reserve for aircraft and equipment.

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- 2 Jan The DCI invokes provisions of Section 10(b), Public Law 110 with regard to certification of costs under the Lockheed contract for 20 aircraft.
- 3 Jan Letter contract with Lockheed is signed; negotiations carried out by [redacted] for CIA and Mr. Robert Bias, Lockheed Vice President; signed by General C. P. Cabell (in alias) for CIA.
- 10 Jan AQUATONE Project Outline, drafted by Mr. Bissell, is signed by the DCI, Mr. Allen W. Dulles; sets forth in broad terms the plans for the management and operation of the project.
- 10 Jan Lockheed Aircraft Corporation presents the Work Statement for production of 20 aircraft, reconnaissance type (no model designation yet assigned).
- 14 Jan Summary of plans and specifications for photographic equipment to be carried by the AQUATONE aircraft is presented by Dr. James G. Baker, Professor of Physics, Harvard University, and member of the Land Technological Capabilities Panel.
- 14 Jan Lt. Gen. Don Putt, Deputy Chief of Staff for Development, USAF, endorses the proposed photographic equipment.
- 26 Jan First cover story for Project AQUATONE is promulgated by Project Staff and distributed to cleared staff and contractor personnel.
- 7 Feb The Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, is briefed on AQUATONE and CIA interest, particularly with regard to activities at the Lockheed Burbank plant; Los Angeles FBI office assigns espionage squad officers to monitor.
- 2 Mar Definitive contract is signed with Lockheed for 20 aircraft by Contracting Officer [redacted] in alias, for estimated price of [redacted] million.
- 2 Mar Approval is obtained from the Deputy Director for Support ([redacted] for AQUATONE to operate as a special project with personnel and operating costs segregated from regular accounts.

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- 7 Mar A CIA/USAF meeting to discuss AQUATONE organization considers, without reaching a decision, the use of the Strategic Air Command as the USAF entity to support the project. Mr. Bissell recommends against, but the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Nathan Twining, is in favor.
- 17 Mar Director of Communications, CIA, [] submits support plan for project communications and names [] of the Office of Communications as Project Communications Officer.
- 31 Mar Definitive contract is signed with Ramo-Wooldridge (forerunner to TRW) for 12 sets of Elint System I.
- 6 Apr []
- 13 Apr An inspection group of Lockheed and Project AQUATONE leaders choose a site [] on which to build the test base.
- 23 Apr Discussions are initiated with [] officials looking toward a contract for processing AQUATONE film.
- 25 Apr [] is nominated by the DD/S as Project AQUATONE Administrative Officer; he is relieved after two weeks at his own request due to poor health. Replaced by []
- 28 Apr First Table of Organization for AQUATONE provides for a Headquarters, a U.S. Field Test Site, and three foreign field bases, with [] total personnel.
- 29 Apr Agreement is signed with USAF/OSI and the Office of Naval Intelligence that CIA will have primary responsibility for all security for the project.
- 1 May Project AQUATONE staff sets up headquarters in the small red brick building at 2210 E St., N. W., on the third floor.

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- 5 May Definitive contract is signed with Perkin-Elmer for 75 various type cameras to be carried by the AQUATONE aircraft; target price is \$5,085,000.
- 12 May [redacted] is assigned as Project AQUATONE Comptroller by [redacted] CIA Comptroller, with the approval of Project Director Bissell, and is named Certifying Officer for project accounts.
- 2 Jun [redacted] to arrange for housekeeping and maintenance services at the test site through their contract with Reynolds Electric and Equipment Company (REECO), reimbursable by CIA.
- 3 Jun Contract is initiated, on recommendation of the Land Panel, with Westinghouse Electric for an APQ-56 side-looking radar for the AQUATONE aircraft.
- 13 Jun Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, USAF, Lt. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, agrees to the recruitment of USAF Reserve pilots from SAC for the AQUATONE program.
- 17 Jun Contract is initiated with [redacted] for an engineering study of film processing and data recording operations, and design and installation of equipment; cost estimate, \$250K(+).
- 27 Jun Secretary of the Air Force letter urges Gen. Twining and his Deputy Chiefs to reach agreement with CIA on AQUATONE management, and names [redacted] to head the Air Force group and serve as deputy to the senior project officer, Mr. Bissell.
- 29 Jun Contract is initiated with [redacted] for procurement of film and other supplies; a new thin base film is developed under this contract.
- 21 Jul [redacted] joins the [redacted] communications network established for Project AQUATONE; cable address is [redacted]
- 25 Jul First U-2 aircraft is delivered to [redacted] by USAF C-124 from Burbank; because of water on lake bed, landing is made on new runway before it is sealed and armored leaving deep wheel marks.

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27 Jul [redacted] temporarily placed on Mr. Bissell's Planning and Coordination Staff, O/DCI.

1 Aug First taxi trials of first U-2 are held; plane, on high speed taxi run, inadvertently leaves the ground by 30 feet and flies 1200 feet. Transition to flight is so smooth pilot does not notice, and a hard landing results when pilot cuts power at low speed and tires blow on landing.

3-4 Aug "Organization and Delineation of Responsibilities" with regard to Project AQUATONE is signed by General Twining for the Air Force 3 August and by DCI Allen W. Dulles for CIA on 4 August 1955.

3 Aug [redacted] is named to head the Air Force Project Group, acting in the name of the Chief of Staff, USAF, and SAC, to support AQUATONE in the training and operational phases.

4 Aug [redacted] USAF, is confirmed as Deputy Project Director for AQUATONE by Chief of Staff, USAF, Gen. Twining; position and title are ratified in the USAF/CIA agreement.

5 Aug First flight of U-2 No. 1 for approximately 30 minutes is successfully and smoothly accomplished. Further low level tests are run on 6 August.

8 Aug U-2 No. 1 performs successfully at 35,000 feet; Mr. Bissell and Headquarters party are observers.

12 Aug Agreement [redacted] for reimbursable housekeeping, new construction and maintenance, [redacted] is signed by Mr. Bissell for CIA, and [redacted]

19 Aug [redacted] authorizes the setting aside of the prohibited area required for the Project AQUATONE test site.

1 Sep U-2 No. 1 reaches 60,000 feet.

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- 2 Sep Letter from Headquarters, USAF, [redacted] copy to Flight Service, establishes [redacted] as a USAF installation assigned for classified functions; prior approval of Headquarters, USAF, is required for its use.
- 7 Sep General Orders No. 1 of 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group, HEDCOM, designate [redacted] base complement as "Flight D, Project Squadron Provisional." (Later changed to Detachment D.) Also designated is Flight A (later Detachment A), the first group to train for overseas operations.
- 8 Sep U-2 No. 1 reaches initial design altitude for take-off weight -- 65,600 feet.
- 22 Sep First engine flame-out is experienced on the U-2; descending from 64,000 feet, engine flames out at 60,000 feet, and restarts promptly at 35,000 feet according to specifications.
- 1 Oct Contract is initiated with [redacted] for the operation and maintenance of the film processing plant to handle U-2 mission film [redacted]
- 1 Oct [redacted], USAF, assumes command of [redacted] at the same time having initial responsibility as Commander of Detachment A.
- 3 Oct Landline communications are established between [redacted] and Burbank, California.
- 3 Oct MATS inaugurates air shuttle from Burbank to [redacted] for transporting contract employees and project staff to and from the test site, using an Air Force C-54 and cleared crew.
- 3 Oct Project Staff re-establishes Project Headquarters in Wings A and C of Quarters Eye, on Ohio Drive, West Potomac Park, Washington. [redacted], Deputy Project Director, physically joins the staff at the new Project Headquarters.
- 17 Oct Contract is initiated with Baird Atomic, Inc., for production of an automatic celestial navigation

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- system; initial order for 8 increased to 24, including sextants, spare parts, rear view mirrors, and the overseas services of company techreps.
- 21 Oct Proposal for a central interpretation unit to handle film from AQUATONE missions is presented to the DCI for approval (Project HTAUTOMAT).
- 7 Nov First recruitment trip for USAF Reserve pilots from SAC is made by project team to Turner Air Force Base, Albany Georgia, netting four candidates.
- 11 Nov Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., suggests creation of a single operating organization to carry out all peacetime overflight activities, using civilian personnel in a clandestine manner; a joint task force outside the framework of the regular military services but with the Air Force owning a majority of the common stock.
- 11 Nov Agreement is reached between the DCI (Dulles) and the Secretary of the Air Force (Quarles) that CIA will continue to be responsible for AQUATONE budget and management through FY 1957 to avoid the disruption of a change of command just prior to the beginning of overseas operations.
- 17 Nov The MATS shuttle from Burbank [redacted] crashes on the south slope of Mt. Charleston and all 14 aboard are killed, including the Project Security Officer, [redacted].
- 19 Nov Decision is made to use American pilots for AQUATONE overflights, keeping a few foreign pilots in reserve [redacted] this decision has the approval of General Cabell, the DDCI.
- 28 Nov Contract is initiated with the Lovelace Foundation, Albuquerque, N. M., for medical and clinical services at the [redacted] and for U-2 pilot physical and psychological examinations.

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1 Dec Ad Hoc Requirements Committee (ARC) is established by Project Director Bissell with the DDCI's approval and concurrence of USAF. [] is named Chairman.

15 Dec SAC's 4070th Support Wing issues its Operational Plan for training, deployment, and operational support for AQUATONE detachments.

22 Dec [] USAF, is assigned as Base Commander at []

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1 Jan Decision becomes effective making Washington the permanent station of AQUATONE personnel on temporary duty at [], in order to try to equalize per diem [] categories of personnel.

10 Jan []

11 Jan Initial three contract pilots arrive at the test site and begin transition training to the U-2.

11 Jan USAF (through Mr. Trevor Gardner) requests CIA assistance in procuring U-2 aircraft for SAC, through AQUATONE procurement channels; approval is given by the DCI on 30 January 1956.

26 Jan General Counsel [] of CIA reviews legal aspects of CIA procurement on behalf of the Air Force of U-2 aircraft systems and renders the opinion to the DCI that, in the national interest, there is legal authority for CIA to enter into such an arrangement on a reimbursable basis.

1 Feb First full-dress meeting of the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee (ARC) for AQUATONE targets is held.

2 Feb []

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- 8 Feb Basic understanding between CIA and Air Force is reached in connection with procurement under the U-2 project; contained in Memorandum for Record TS-143314.
- 8 Feb Secretary of State John Foster Dulles is requested by the DC [redacted]
[redacted]
- 25 Feb Project Headquarters AQUATONE is again moved, this time to the 5th floor, Matomic Building, at 1717 H Street, N. W.
- 27 Feb AQUATONE Special Signal Center (serving the [redacted] channel) is opened in new Project Headquarters with ZI communications channels open to [redacted], Lockheed Burbank, Ramo-Wooldridge, Hycon, Maywood Depot, Pratt & Whitney, and with overseas stations [redacted].
[redacted] Commo not cleared to receive AQUATONE traffic.
- 29 Feb Cover story for U-2 overseas mission is promulgated; it is reviewed and revised in March to include Air Weather Service recommendations.
- 1 Mar Project HTAUTOMAT (Photo Interpretation Center) is activated at the Steuart Building, 5th and K Sts., N.W., with a staff of 30.
- 1 Mar Contract is initiated with [redacted] for equipment required to set up film processing centers at [redacted] and at PIC.
- 2 Mar [redacted]

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5 Mar Director of Communications, [REDACTED] recommends use of Army-Airways Communications System personnel to reinforce CIA commo technicians, in short supply, to service Project AQUATONE; Mr. Bissell agrees as a temporary measure but recommends that O/C recruit and train replacements.

6 Mar [REDACTED] USAF/SAC, is assigned as Commanding Officer of Detachment B (WRSP II).

6 Mar [REDACTED]

29 Mar Detachment A is reconstituted under the name "Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional (1st)" by authority of Air Weather Service General Order No. 7.

30 Mar Deputy Project Director, [REDACTED] USAF, returns to the Air Force and is replaced by [REDACTED] USAF.

4 Apr Contract is initiated with General Precision Laboratories for Radan equipment for the U-2 and P2V programs.

12 Apr [REDACTED]

24 Apr Unit Simulated Combat Mission tests by Detachment A are completed and the unit is declared operationally ready.

29 Apr [REDACTED]

1 May [REDACTED]

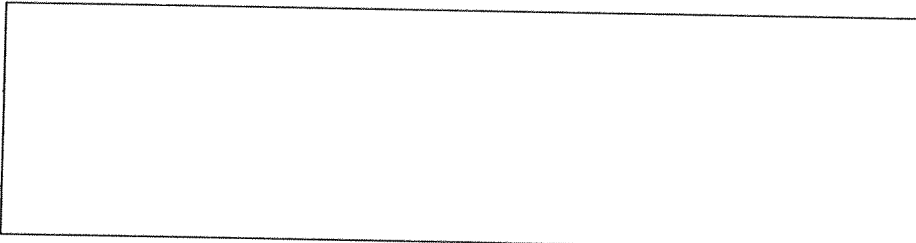
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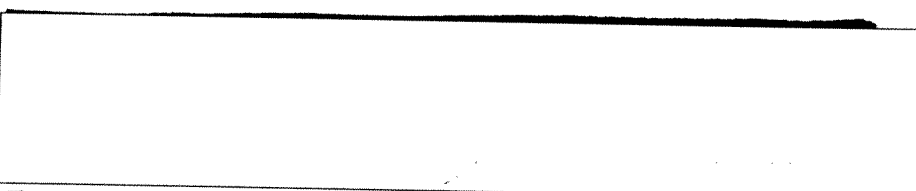
- 2 May Instructions are issued to Detachment Commander, WRSP I, concerning use of lethal device ("L Pill") by pilots.
- 5 May [REDACTED]
- 7 May National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) issues press release detailing program of high altitude research using Lockheed U-2, as part of the AQUATONE cover plan.
- 7 May Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional, II, (also known as Detachment B) is activated at [REDACTED]
- 15 May First U-2 loss is suffered, No. 345, with Wilburn Rose, trainee pilot. Pogos fail to release after take-off and in second effort to release them, pilot fails to maintain adequate airspeed and altitude, and crashes near [REDACTED].
- 15 May Contingency procedures in the event of pilot emergency are issued as Operations Policy Letter No. 6, giving permissible and impermissible information to be disclosed by a captured pilot and other emergency procedures to be followed.
- 16 May Prime Minister Eden writes to President Eisenhower requesting postponement of Detachment A operations from the U.K. because of his current embarrassment with the frogman incident vis-a-vis the USSR.
- 31 May Government Employees Health Association (GEHA) rules AQUATONE contract pilots ineligible for UBLIC insurance coverage.
- 11 Jun [REDACTED]

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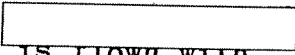
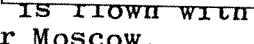
22 Jun White House approval to proceed with operational flights is received via Col. Goodpaster, speaking for the President; no deep penetration of the USSR is to take place, however, until Chancellor Adenauer is briefed, and agrees to such flights from West Germany.

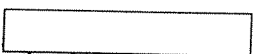
26 Jun 


26 Jun First U-2 overflight mission  over Poland and return is flown by  using the A-2 camera, with good photographic results.

27 Jun 

29 Jun Emergency procedures in the event of aircraft loss over hostile territory are issued to Detachment A.

4 Jul First U-2 overflight of Russia by  with targets Moscow and Leningrad  is flown with cloud cover being experienced over Moscow.


5 Jul Second U-2 overflight of Russia by  covers Moscow with weather clear and photography excellent.

11 Jul 

11 Jul Ambassador Georgi N. Zaroubin presents protest note to Secretary of State charging a "twin-engine medium bomber of the United States Air Force" had

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grossly violated Soviet air space on 4, 5, and 9 July with flights up to 200 miles into Soviet territory. Secretary of State, on the President's instruction, calls for grounding of all overflight operations immediately.

- 15 Jul [redacted] (USAF/SAC), Training Unit Commander for U-2 pilot training, [redacted]
[redacted]
- 16-21 Jul Polish and Czech Governments deliver notes of protest to the State Department on overflights of their territory 4, 5, 9, and 10 July 1956.
- 1 Aug FY 1956 requirement for AQUATONE of \$15.8 million is supplied from the Contingency Reserve after presentation of the budget to the CIA Comptroller and to the BOB for approval.
- 8 Aug [redacted] USAF/SAC, is assigned as Commanding Officer, Detachment C (WRSP III); his tour with CIA extends eventually to 10 August 1962.
- 13 Aug Detachment B begins deployment [redacted]
[redacted]
- 31 Aug Second U-2 loss is suffered, No. 354, with Frank G. Grace, trainee pilot. On night training flight, pilot loses night vision in initial climb, left wing drops and aircraft stalls into the ground.
- 11 Sep First U-2 operational mission is flown by Detachment B covering Middle East targets.
- 17 Sep Third U-2 loss is suffered, No. 346, with [redacted] Detachment A pilot. [redacted], the U-2 is seen by two American pilots [redacted] and four Canadian pilots in a flight of RCAF F-86's at 35,000 feet, after which the plane disintegrates with wreckage falling over a wide area; cause not definitely determined; sabotage investigated and ruled out.

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- 17 Sep President Eisenhower is briefed on AQUATONE to date and is asked to approve further overflights; he postpones his decision.
- 30 Oct Decision at highest level is to deny the British any further intelligence from U-2 collections over the Middle East due to the trend of British/French action in the Suez area.
- 28 Nov Chief of Staff, USAF, Gen. Nathan Twining, turns down the AQUATONE request for base rights in the Far East.
- 5 Dec Gen. Twining agrees, with DCI and DDCI persuasion, to allow Detachment C to deploy to the Far East. [redacted] CNO, Adm. Arleigh Burke, gives his blessing provided the Air Force agrees.
- 15 Dec DCI memorandum establishes procedures for scheduling certification of AQUATONE vouchers for covert procurement by the DCI, thus eliminating voucher audit by the General Accounting Office.
- 18 Dec Project BLACK KNIGHT (SAC RB-57D overflight program) runs its first and last mission, using three aircraft over Soviet Far East territory and provoking a protest which halts the program and also delays Detachment C's deployment still further.
- 19 Dec Fourth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 357, non-fatal to [redacted] Detachment B trainee pilot. Excessive oxygen consumption leads pilot to make emergency descent during which airspeed exceeds limits, causing buffet and loss of control; pilot is blown out as plane disintegrates, descends without serious injury, and is picked up near Grant's Pass.
- 22 Dec First U-2 mission solely for Elint collection is flown [redacted] along the Soviet Border carrying Elint system v.
- 31 Dec Project AQUATONE staff reaches the high point of 600 personnel.

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- 18 Jan The DCI approves underwriting GEHA payment of death benefits to contract AQUATONE pilots with CIA funds; a reserve is set up under the code name [redacted] and \$1,000 per man per year in the form of premiums is paid in. [redacted] (lost 1 June 1964 when GEHA accepts pilots for coverage.)
- 2 Feb Agreement is reached with USAF for deployment of [redacted] is persuaded to act due to SAC's desire to get Detachment C out of [redacted] so that SAC's U-2 group can begin their training there.
- 22 Mar Air Research and Development Command, USAF, agrees to the transfer of residual U-2 test and training activities to Edwards Air Force Base (North), California.
- 27 Mar [redacted]
- 4 Apr Fifth U-2 loss is suffered: No. 341 with Robert Sieker, Lockheed test pilot; on test flight from [redacted] pilot believed to have suffered hypoxia due to malfunction of one or more systems; radio contact between base and aircraft lost, and aircraft crashed in the desert.
- 19 Apr Project Director Bissell recommends to DCI that he seek high level decision on project's future, whether to remain under civilian control or be transferred to the military, and whether to maintain standby capability or begin to phase project out of existence.
- 19 Apr Mr. Bissell advises the DCI that the surfacing of the Air Force U-2 capability will compel the liquidation of Project AQUATONE under its NACA/AWS cover.
- 6 May A meeting is held with the President on the future of AQUATONE, ending with Agency and Air Force participants putting different interpretations upon the President's intent, which had to be ironed out at a subsequent meeting on 29 May. At the 6 May meeting approval for further overflights of the USSR is given.

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- 10 May Detachment G, residual [] is reconstituted as Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional, IV, with [] USAF, as Commanding Officer.
- 29 May A meeting of CIA and USAF principals is held to reach agreed interpretation of the President's intention with regard to the future of AQUATONE. The conclusion reached is that higher authority, for political reasons, wishes the project to remain under civilian direction.
- 3-7 Jun []
- 10 Jun The SAC group training in USAF U-2's at [] departs for its new base at Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas, with assignment to the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (Light), 4028th Squadron.
- 20 Jun First U-2 overflight by Detachment C is staged from Eielson AFB, Alaska, over Kamchatka Peninsula of the USSR.
- 20 Jun Detachment G (WRSP IV) completes move to Edwards Air Force Base (North) from [].
- 21 Jun [] having been evacuated by CIA and SAC U-2 units, is mothballed under a caretaker in preparation for a []
- 18 Jul Memorandum of Understanding on procurement for the Navy by Project AQUATONE Staff is signed by the DCI, following the same lines as for Air Force procurement.
- 19 Jul The DDCI, Gen. C. P. Cabell, meets with Air Force Generals Bergquist, LeMay, and Lewis to argue the case for civilian control of AQUATONE and succeeds in getting their acceptance on the basis of agreed interpretation of the President's and Secretary of State's intent that the project remain under CIA.

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- 29 Jul DCI Dulles advises General Thomas D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF, that Project AQUATONE will maintain two detachments at reduced strength under continued CIA direction, in accordance with the wishes of the White House and State Department.
- 2 Aug The DDCI, Gen. Cabell, approves CNO Adm. Burke's recommendation for developing a carrier-based U-2 capability. A later Navy approach for USAF approval to carry this out is turned down by the Air Force.
- 4-28 Aug Nine overflight missions (Operation SOFT TOUCH), principally over the USSR, are carried out from [redacted] by Detachment B.
- 16 Sep Second staging by Detachment C from Eielson AFB, Alaska is carried out with one successful mission over Klyuchi, USSR.
- 16 Sep VHF recorder developed as a COMINT collection package for the U-2 by Ramo Wooldridge (System III) is eliminated from the program by the Project Director as of less than marginal intelligence value.
- 24 Sep The Deputy Director for Support is asked to approve the decision to allow dependents of AQUATONE detachment personnel to accompany their sponsors overseas; approval is given.
- 11 Oct Electronic System IV, unattended airborne FERRET system, is first used over the Barents Sea with good results; all System IV equipment is transferred to the Air Force U-2 group in March 1962.
- 11-13 Oct Last two overflights performed by Detachment A [redacted] are flown over the Barents Sea (System IV covering Soviet Navy Maneuvers), and over Murmansk (the A-2 camera).
- 15 Nov Detachment A operations are phased out, all personnel and equipment are returned to the ZI and the facility [redacted] is turned back to the U.S. Air Force.
- 19 Nov An advanced reconnaissance system study (Project GUSTO), developed from radar camouflage studies

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(RAINBOW) is reported by Mr. Bissell to Deputy Secretary of Defense Quarles, who agrees that it be reported to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities.

26 Nov Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald Quarles supports CIA efforts for a low reflectivity reconnaissance aircraft (GUSTO/OXCART) and expresses desire to participate in definitive design decision; the A-12/SR-71 aircraft resulted.

27 Nov

[REDACTED]

1958

7 Feb

[REDACTED]

21 Feb

[REDACTED]

1 Mar

First (and last) overflight of the USSR [REDACTED] over Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk, and [REDACTED] and protested in note delivered to Department of State by Ambassador Menshikov; all U-2 overflights ordered to cease indefinitely by highest authority.

28 Mar

Deployment of Detachment C to [REDACTED] begins; 50 missions flown over the islands of Indonesia, ending 11 June 1958 with [REDACTED].

1 Apr

Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., is given additional duties in stimulating exploitation in CIA of advanced

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technology, and retitled "Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Development (SA/PD); at the same time AQUATONE staff becomes the Development Projects Staff.

- 1 Apr A new cryptonym, CHALICE, is assigned to the U-2 project, and AQUATONE is cancelled.
- 1 Jun [redacted] USAF, is named Deputy Project Director of CHALICE and Chief of the Development Projects Staff vice [redacted], who returns to the Air Force.
- 16 Jun [redacted]
- 26 Jun Contract is let with Granger Associates for an electronic countermeasures device for the P2V and the U-2 (Granger Model 504) which returns false angle information to airborne intercept radars. (This equipment is aboard U-2 #360 when it is shot down over Sverdlovsk.)
- 30 Jun Supply depot for U-2-peculiar equipment and supplies is shifted from Cheli AF Depot at Maywood, California, to Mira Loma AF Depot, California, with [redacted] continuing in charge.
- 10 Jul Hycon subcontract with Perkin-Elmer for the first order of U-2 cameras is settled for \$4,106,000; dealings with Hycon thereafter are by direct contract with Project CHALICE.
- 14 Jul First of four typhoons over the South Pacific is tracked and photographed by Detachment C with A-1 camera; Winnie, Alice, Grace, and Ida are covered between July and September.
- 15 Jul U. S. Marines are ordered by President Eisenhower to Beirut to protect Lebanon's independence. (British intervene in Jordan with paratroopers on 17 July.)

- 20 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

[redacted] 8888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~1958 (cont'd)

- 23 Jul First Perkin-Elmer prime contract for U-2 cameras is settled for [] 6¹/₂% of cost represents procurement for the Air Force.
- 31 Jul Advisory panel with Dr. Edwin H. Land as Chairman is organized by Mr. Bissell to advise on a successor reconnaissance aircraft to the U-2; holds its first meeting but no firm recommendations come out of it.
- 27 Aug Prime Minister Harold Macmillan approves British participation in Project CHALICE, provided missions are flown by civilian pilots without RAF markings and no operational flights are made without his specific permission. President Eisenhower approves British participation the same day, subject to the Secretary of State's concurrence.
- 29 Aug President Eisenhower is briefed on results of U-2 [] coverage and agrees to the continuation of tactical missions over []
- 2 Sep Bureau of the Budget questions the continuance of the U-2 project under CIA instead of its transfer to the Air Force and requests statement outlining past, present, and future plans for CHALICE; reply delivered to BOB 2 September 1958 satisfies this request.
- 11 Sep []
- 15 Sep []
- 12 Nov Land Advisory Panel recommends investigation of Convair proposal for small aircraft to be launched from a B-58, and of Lockheed proposal for a supersonic unstaged design (the A-3).
- 10 Dec Critical Collections Problems Committee and USIB Elint Committee approve initiation of System VII for intercept and recording of missile telemetry signals during pre-burnout stage of missile launching.

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[]-8888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1958 (cont'd)

- 12 Dec USAF/SAC initiates proposal to JCS for [] participation in a U-2 overflight program.
- 16 Dec BOB/CIA agreement is signed for [] DOD FY 1959-60 funds to be made available for the second phase of GUSTO (OXCART) if approval is received from higher authority. These funds are not to be a part of FY 1960 CIA budget and in no way affect the Agency Reserve, but CIA is to have effective control over use of the money just as though it were from the CIA Reserve.
- 31 Dec []

1959

- 1 Jan Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., is named Deputy Director for Plans, succeeding []
- 16 Feb Development Projects Division is established as a division of DD/P, effective 16 February 1959, amalgamating all Agency air operations including special projects CHALICE and CORONA.
- 16 Feb [] USAF, is appointed Acting Chief of Development Projects Division, DPD/DDP. [] is appointed Chief, Special Requirements Staff, and continues as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee (ARC).
- 1 Mar Conversion is begun to put Pratt & Whitney J-75 engines in the U-2 aircraft to add 2,500 feet altitude; conversion is to be done in small increments of three or four aircraft at a time.
- 6 Mar Consideration of development of a bombing capability for the U-2 is discontinued with the concurrence of the DCI.

- 22 -

[] 8888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1959 (cont'd)

22 Mar Mr. John Parangosky is assigned as Deputy Chief, Development Branch, DPD; formerly Executive Officer of Detachment B [redacted]

12-14 May Two missions are staged by Detachment C [redacted] covering [redacted] and [redacted] in support of FE Division, DD/P, projects.

18 May CIA/USAF working level technical panel is formed, at the request of Gen. Thomas D. White, to provide expert advice looking toward design selection for GUSTO (renamed OXCART in development/operational phase).

22 May The DDCI, Gen. C. P. Cabell, approves the DD/P proposal for a combat air asset stockpiling program including the procurement of AD, P2V, B-26 and F-86 aircraft; Development Projects Division is made responsible.

25 May Establishment of Detachment 1 [redacted] is approved by the DDCI, activated as 1007th Operations Evaluation and Training Group, Detachment 1, with [redacted] in command; composed of personnel and assets transferred [redacted] from the European Air Operations Base at Wiesbaden (7405th Support Group).

29 May First shoot-down of [redacted] occurs over [redacted] flown by [redacted] pilot assigned to the [redacted] of [redacted] at [redacted]

9 Jun Joint collection mission by CIA and USAF is flown by CHALICE U-2 with System VII and SAC RB-47, successfully acquiring missile telemetry on Soviet ICBM launching, the first such intercept recorded by the U.S. Intelligence Community.

17 Jun The 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group (AISG), HEDCOM, is replaced as cover unit for DPD Air Force assignees by the 1149th Special Activities Squadron, HEDCOM.

23 Jun Mr. [redacted] replaces Mr. [redacted] as Chief, Contracts Branch, DPD.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1959 (cont'd)

20 Jul President Eisenhower is briefed on GUSTO (later renamed OXCART) and approves continuation of studies if funds are available.

30 Jul The DCI approves establishment [redacted]
[redacted]

31 Jul [redacted] replaces [redacted]
USAF, as Commander of Detachment B at [redacted]

20 Aug DOD/USAF/CIA selection board on GUSTO/OXCART approves the Lockheed design (A-12) as the follow-on system to the U-2.

21 Aug The cryptonym OXCART is assigned to the development phase of the A-12 advanced reconnaissance system.

29 Aug Detachment C stages from [redacted]
[redacted] flies 6 missions over [redacted]
[redacted] North Vietnam, and Laos, and returns to
12 September 1959.

31 Aug Project GUSTO's termination is announced.

3 Sep Letter contract with Lockheed Aircraft Company is initiated for design and production of the A-12 aircraft.

24 Sep Non-fatal U-2 accident of No. 360. Returning to base at [redacted] from test flight with too little fuel, Detachment C pilot makes emergency landing in a potato field; he is not injured and aircraft is repairable.

18 Nov [redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1959 (cont'd)

24 Nov Joint agreement is signed between Far East Division and Development Projects Division, delineating functions and responsibilities regarding Far East air operations of DD/P.

6 Dec

[REDACTED]

23 Dec The DD/P approves the reopening and renovation of [REDACTED] for use as the OXCART test and training facility.

1960

14 Jan

[REDACTED]

30 Jan Lockheed Aircraft Company is given firm go-ahead for the production of 12 OXCART aircraft.

5 Feb

[REDACTED]

19 Feb Presidential approval is given for one of three planned overflight missions of the USSR in order of priority, subject to take-off, route, and terminal weather; third choice is finally flown over Sary Shagan [REDACTED] 19 April 1960.

25 Mar P2V7 aircraft #7101 crashes into mountain in South Korea on ferry flight from [REDACTED] to Kunsan; aircraft and full crew, 11 [REDACTED] officers and men assigned [REDACTED] program, are lost.

5 Apr Non-fatal U-2 accident, No. 349. Detachment C pilot on mission flown from [REDACTED] crashlanded in rice paddy short of base; pilot is not injured and aircraft is retrieved in sections, aided by natives with oxcarts, requiring a nine day trek.

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1960 (cont'd)

25 Apr Presidential approval is given for one out of three planned missions before midnight 1 May 1960: (1) TIME STEP; (2) GRAND SLAM; and (3) SUN SPOT. Long-range weather forecast is against (1), so planning goes ahead for (2).

1 May Operation GRAND SLAM, postponed due to weather from 27 April to 1 May 1960, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Soviet tracking begins at the border and continues without interruption until last reported position of aircraft at 0629Z.

1 May Sixth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 360, non-fatal to pilot, Francis Gary Powers, Detachment B. Aircraft is downed near Sverdlovsk, USSR, by surface-to-air missile action, pilot ejects as aircraft disintegrates and lands uninjured.

2 May Press release by C/O of Detachment B announces a U-2 missing as drafted and cabled from Headquarters; it is not published in the press until 3 May with an Istanbul dateline.

4 May [REDACTED]

5 May FBIS picks up Soviet broadcast on Radio Moscow of announcement by Khrushchev of shooting down of American plane which had crossed the Soviet frontier "from Turkey, Iran or Pakistan."

7 May Soviet radio broadcast says Russians have captured the spy pilot alive and are interrogating him; this fact is revealed in a speech by Khrushchev at the 5th Session of the Supreme Soviet's Fifth Convocation.

7 May [REDACTED]

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~~TOP SECRET~~1960 (cont'd)

- 9 May Congressional leaders are briefed by DCI Dulles on the U-2 May Day incident.
- 10 May Director of Personnel, CIA, certifies to the Comptroller, CIA, that Francis G. Powers qualifies under the terms of P.L. 490, 77th Congress for status as a Missing Person and the benefits related thereto.
- 11 May President Eisenhower holds a press conference and, on his own unilateral initiative, admits to pre-knowledge and agreement to the U-2 overflights of the USSR.
- 15 May Cryptonym IDEALIST is assigned to the U-2 program in lieu of CHALICE which has been exposed.
- 23 May
- 25 May President Eisenhower addresses the nation on the collapse of the Summit Meeting scheduled to be held in Paris May 16, but which Khrushchev refuses to attend.
- 31 May The DCI testifies regarding the U-2 May Day incident before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in closed session with testimony classified Secret.
- 1 Jun USAF, is assigned as Acting Chief, DPD, vice , who returns to the Air Force.
- 8 Jun
- 14 Jun Senator John F. Kennedy, in a speech on the collapse of the Summit due to the U-2 affair, issues his challenge to Republicans and Democrats to engage in a "Great Debate" on the issues before the United States.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1960 (cont'd)

23 Jun The DDCI approves expenditure from Agency funds of \$50,000 in defense of Frank Powers [redacted] only \$30,000 is advanced to the lawyers and only \$23,094.31 of that is expended.

27 Jun The CI Staff and Office of Security submit initial assessment of damage from the U-2 incident.

1 Jul Soviets shoot down USAF RB-47 over the Barents Sea.

7 Jul Indictment of Frank Powers is published by the USSR and trial set for 17 August 1960.

8 Jul Japanese Foreign Office formally requests the removal of U-2 aircraft from Japan due to public pressure on the government.

9 Jul Detachment C U-2 aircraft are removed from Atsugi by C-124 airlift and returned to the U.S.

11 Jul Development Projects Division's Air Support Branch establishes a separate unit [redacted] to support Western Hemisphere Division's Cuban counterrevolutionary invasion project.

18 Aug Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot, is sentenced by Soviet judges to ten years' loss of liberty, the first three years to be spent in prison.

19 Aug The last of Detachment C staff departs from Atsugi and the facility is turned back to the Navy.

26 Aug Proposal in principle for a [redacted] U-2 detachment is approved by the State Department and by President Eisenhower.

13 Sep [redacted]

27 Sep Mr. Oliver Powers, father of Frank, reads a letter to Khrushchev on the NBC Morning Show, asking for his son's release.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1960 (cont'd)

27 Sep New security guidance is issued in light of the U-2 trial revelations in order to prevent further damage to the project.

11 Oct

14 Oct Organization and delineation of responsibilities for Project OXCART are formalized. Direction and control is to be exercised jointly by the DCI and the Chief of Staff, USAF, subject to guidance from higher authority and coordination with other departments as appropriate.

24 Oct The cryptonym is assigned to the joint U-2 project.

26 Oct First operational mission by Detachment G is flown over Cuba (one of five missions) from staging base at Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas.

4 Nov President Eisenhower approves joint U-2 project. General Goodpaster informs CIA of the approval on 8 November 1960.

9-28 Nov Air sampling missions are flown by Detachment G from Hawaii in support of AFTAC atomic intelligence program.

10 Nov Phase-out of Detachment B to a small holding unit is begun. Efforts to unground the U-2 for further flights although approved by the Special Group in August 1961, do not receive approval.

18 Nov President-elect Kennedy is briefed on CIA operations by DCI Dulles and Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., at Palm Beach, Florida.

22 Nov

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1960 (cont'd)

- a TALENT briefing by [] of PIC, to impress on them the value of sophisticated film processing, as well as the capabilities of the U-2.
- 29 Nov NBC "White Paper" - "The U-2 Affair" -- aired for one hour on TV.
- 7 Dec Export license issued for shipment of two U-2 aircraft to the [] by Lockheed through arrangements with State Department and Commissioner of Customs.
- 14 Dec Detachment H (U-2) is established on [] at [] Air Base jointly with the [] [] []

1961

- 1 Jan Logistics support for CIA U-2 operations and SAC U-2 operations are consolidated under a single Weapons System Support Center at Warner Robins Depot, Georgia, in order to separate U-2 and A-12 materiel operations, and to effect economies.
- 3 Jan President Eisenhower severs relations with Cuba.
- 3 Jan First U-2 coverage of North Vietnam by Detachment G staging out of Cubi Point Naval Air Station, Philippines, is carried out.
- 7 Jan State Department White Paper on U.S. aid to Laos forms the basis for a joint CIA/DOD program to build up a Laos Air Force, from a nucleus of B-26 aircraft stored in the Far East.
- 25 Jan []
- 31 Jan Military Aide to the President, Brig. Gen. Chester V. Clifton, USA, briefed on IDEALIST and other reconnaissance programs at request of Gen. Goodpaster by [] Chief, DPD Security.

(cont'd)

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[] 888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1961 (cont'd)

Gen. Clifton is advised by Goodpaster that Mr. Bissell will be his contact on overflight programs, but that Mr. McGeorge Bundy will coordinate all IDEALIST flights for the White House.

- 1 Feb U-2 modification to allow for in-flight refueling is initiated in order to add to aircraft's range.
- 10 Feb Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson is briefed by [redacted] DPD Security on IDEALIST and the satellite program, but not on OXCART; the Vice President's military aide, Col. Howard Burris, USAF, is also briefed at the same level.
- 13 Feb DPD/Contracts and USAF/Air Materiel Command sign memorandum of understanding on consolidation of materiel support for CIA and SAC U-2's at Warner Robins Depot, Georgia.
- 18 Feb USAF/CIA agreement on OXCART management is signed by DCI Allen W. Dulles for CIA, having been signed on 15 February by General Thomas D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF.
- 19 Feb Operations Coordinating Board is dissolved by President Kennedy and the Special Group for coordinating covert activities is reactivated under Mr. McGeorge Bundy (who receives CIA briefing along with NSC members on 14 February); Thursday meetings of the Special Group are initiated 23 February 1961.
- 21 Feb First instructions are issued for handling documents in the [redacted] Control System.
- 19 Mar Seventh U-2 loss is suffered (first under [redacted], No. 351, with [redacted] pilot [redacted]. On night transition landing practice, pilot allows wing to drop and aircraft is flown into the ground and demolished by fire, and pilot is fatally injured.
- 5-30 Apr Detachment G flies 15 missions covering the Cuban counterrevolutionary activities.
- 12 Apr President Kennedy pledges non-intervention in Cuba.

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[redacted] 888-69/Chron

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1961 (cont'd)

- 16 Apr Dr. Miro Cardona, Cuban exile leader in the U.S. announces invasion of Cuba by counterrevolutionaries.
- 17-19 Apr Attempted landings without expected air cover turns into fiasco at "Bay of Pigs" and counterrevolutionaries are massacred by Castro forces.
- 11 May Special Group of NSC approves indefinite continuation of [] flights under the Special Group's continual and mission-by-mission scrutiny and evaluation.
- 23 May Detachment G begins its U-2 coverage of the Cuban missile build-up and accomplishes 28 overflights up through 7 October 1963.
- 28 Jun General Maxwell D. Taylor is appointed Chairman of the NSC Special Group (and Military Representative of the President).
- 30 Jun []
- 16 Aug U-2 flights over Vietnam are initiated by Detachment G from Cubi Point, Philippines. Intermittent coverage of Vietnam is continued by CIA to 1968.
- 6 Sept Initial NRO agreement is signed by Gen. Cabell for CIA and Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric for DOD.
- 14 Sep Eighth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 353, with Detachment G pilot, [] Returning from an air sampling mission to Edwards AFB, the aircraft stalls and strikes the ground short of the runway; pilot ejects and is uninjured; aircraft burned beyond repair.
- 4 Oct President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board recommends Special Group re-evaluate proposal for photographic coverage of selected [] targets; President Kennedy approves the Board's recommendation.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1961 (cont'd)

- 2 Nov Acting DCI Cabell, in a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, recommends pursuit of a prisoner exchange of Abel for Powers using the channel set up through correspondence between Attorney James Donovan and Col. Abel's wife, who is apparently under Soviet control.
- 15 Nov [] USAF. is assigned to duty as Chief of Base at [] with status of Commanding Officer, Detachment 1, 1129th (USAF) Special Activities Squadron.
- 24 Nov Secretary of State Rusk recommends to Attorney General Robert Kennedy that efforts for Abel/Powers exchange be pursued through the James Donovan/Mrs. Helen Abel correspondence channel.
- 29 Nov Mr. John A. McCone becomes Director of Central Intelligence on retirement of Mr. Allen W. Dulles.
- 20 Dec [] Control Manual is issued to the Intelligence Community.

1962

- 5 Jan The Special Group of the NSC approves three [] U-2 missions from [] with the proviso that each mission must have specific approval prior to launch from the Special Group.
- 12 Jan First U-2 flight over [] by [] pilot covers the []
- 20 Jan The PFIAB registers the concern of the President for the security of the sensitive reconnaissance projects being conducted by CIA; Mr. Bissell replies, citing the setting up of the [] control system for those sensitive projects.
- 10 Feb Exchange of Soviet spy, Col. Rudolf Abel, for U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers, is consummated at the center of the Glienecke Bridge connecting East and West Berlin, having been engineered on behalf of the U.S. Government by New York Attorney James Donovan.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1962 (cont'd)

- 17 Feb Resignation of Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., as DD/P is effective this date; he is replaced by Mr. Richard Helms.
- 19 Feb Office of Deputy Director (Research) is established.
- 5 Mar Mr. Bissell recommends to DCI that division of DPD projects and assets between DD/P and DD/R be as follows: special reconnaissance projects and R&D to support their operation to go to DD/R; air support to the Clandestine Services to stay in DD/P.
- 15 Apr Development Projects Division's special reconnaissance projects, including CORONA, are transferred to the DD/R.
- 26 Apr First flight of the A-12 (#121) is performed satisfactorily for a duration of 40 minutes.
- 30 Apr First official flight of the A-12, with Lockheed test pilot, Louis Chalk, takes off with gross weight of 72,000 pounds, climbs to 30,000 feet, and achieves top speed of 340 knots, with a flight duration of 59 minutes.
- 29 May Project OXCART is added to the [] systems for control of documentation and communications.
- 12 Jun First Ramo-Wooldridge contract for U-2 electronic systems is settled in the amount of \$20.4+ million; this includes costs incurred on behalf of the Air Force, the Office of Communications, []
- 27 Jul CSN 1-494 establishes Special Operations Division, DD/P, which takes over the air support functions for the Clandestine Services previously carried out by Development Projects Division; [] is named Chief of SOD.
- 30 Jul Office of Special Activities is established under the DD/R; Development Projects Division activities other than air support functions transferred to SOD are made the responsibility of the new Office of Special Activities.

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1962 (cont'd)

1 Aug Mr. James A. Cunningham, Jr., is named Acting Assistant Director for Special Activities, DD/R.

29 Aug Detachment G mission over Cuba confirms the existence of numerous SAM sites.

1 Sep OSA Contracts Staff [] at Headquarters and [] on the West Coast) are authorized by the Acting DCI, General Marshall Carter, to do covert procurement in furtherance of NRP objectives.

4 Sep Col. Jack C. Ledford, USAF, is named Assistant Director for Special Activities, DD/R, and Mr. James A. Cunningham, Jr., is named Deputy Assistant Director for Special Activities, DD/R.

4 Sep Special Security Center is established by Office of Security and OSA Security Staff is relieved of record-keeping and paper work involved with clearances which it had previously been responsible for, with the exception of those instigated by OSA.

9 Sep Ninth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 378, with [] over [] Lost on operational mission cause unknown.

30 Sep Reorganization of OSA is completed, reducing number of division and staff heads reporting directly to the front office (10) to a more manageable arrangement. Materiel is placed under Field Activities.

7 Oct Last CIA-operated U-2 mission is flown over Cuba by Detachment G.

8-9 Oct Although weather is good for coverage of Cuba, no U-2 aircraft are in commission and no flights are made.

10 Oct The Joint Chiefs of Staff and USIB meet on the Cuban situation.

10-12 Oct Weather is unfavorable for Cuban coverage. Detachment G supervises requalification of two SAC pilots in CIA's U-2C aircraft at Edwards AFB in preparation of future Cuban coverage by SAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~1962 (cont'd)

- 12 Oct Recommendation by the JCS to turn Cuban coverage over to SAC is ordered carried out by Secretary of Defense McNamara and agreed by the White House.
- 14 Oct Overflight of Cuba by SAC pilot in a CIA U-2, flying a mission as plotted by OSA/Operations Intelligence Staff, brings back photography which proves the presence of a Soviet MRBM in Cuba.
- 15 Oct A special meeting of the NSC Special Group approves two U-2 missions for Cuba for 16 October.
- 16 Oct A meeting at 1300 in Secretary McNamara's office to consider stepping up coverage of Cuba results in authorization by McNamara of up to 6 missions of all types each day for the 17th and 18th of October.
- 17 Oct Management and operation of all FIRE FLY drones against Cuba under NRO supervision is assigned to DOD with CIA assistance in Elint, contracting, and security.
- 17 Oct The AQ-12 drone project management is assigned to the Director of Program B (CIA) [redacted] with [redacted] of the NRO Staff as Project Officer.
- 22 Oct President Kennedy makes public disclosure of the presence of offensive weapons in Cuba and invokes a quarantine on shipping to Cuba.
- 20 Nov The NRO Ad Hoc Cover Committee is established to coordinate contingency procedures for all NRO reconnaissance operations.
- 5 Dec First coverage of [redacted] by Detachment G is carried out from [redacted] [redacted] Six missions are flown between 1 December and 22 January 1963 covering [redacted] and the NEFA.
- 17 Dec The Special Group assumption for FY 1963-64 includes requirement for photo coverage of [redacted] and maintenance of two operational aircraft by Detachment H for the [redacted] U-2 program.

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[redacted]-8888-69/Chron

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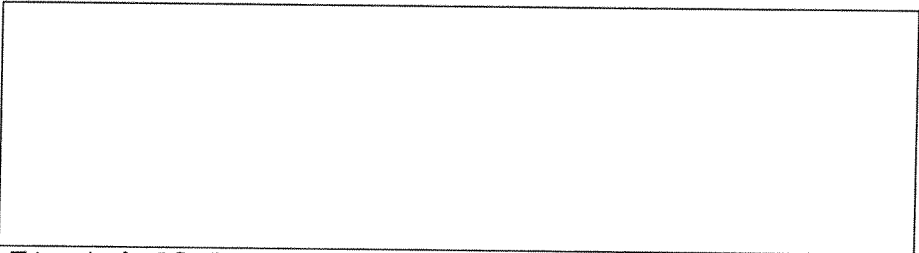
1962 (cont'd)

18 Dec OSA Activity Program 63-1 is approved for an Electronic Data Processing Branch in OSA Operations Division to do flight planning for OXCART and IDEALIST, and ephemeris plotting for satellite projects.

1963

15 Jan First A-12 flight is made using a J-58 engine.

Mar



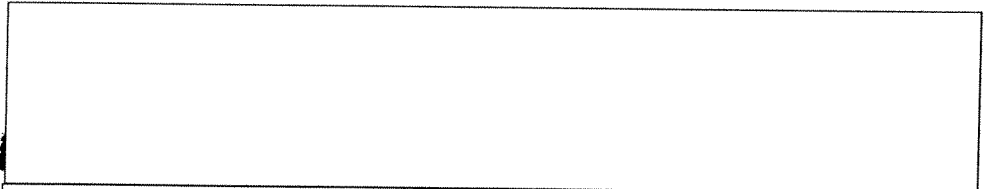
24 May First A-12 loss is suffered. Pilot bails out and lands unhurt during routine training flight from [redacted] due to erroneous air speed indication.

20 Jul A-12 achieves Mach 3 in flight test at [redacted]

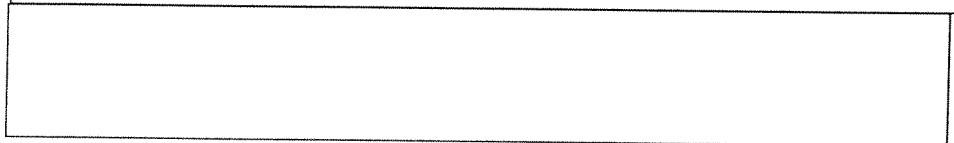
23 Jul General Marshall Carter, DDCI, approves the OSA staff study and recommendation for initiation of a development program for a carrier-based U-2.

3 Aug First flight of U-2G from deck of Aircraft Carrier USS KITTY HAWK is successfully accomplished by Lockheed test pilot, Bob Schumacher, retrieving at Burbank.

29 Aug



29 Sep



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[redacted]-8888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~1963 (cont'd)

- 1 Nov Tenth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 355, with [redacted] pilot, [redacted] Returning from coverage of [redacted] tracking stopped southeast of [redacted] fate of pilot unknown.
- 30 Nov DCI McCone sees President Johnson and receives his reaffirmation of the Special Group's approval of [redacted] U-2 overflights; the Special Group reaffirms approval on 6 December 1963 and State Department approves on 9 January 1964.
- 30 Nov [redacted]
- 3-19 Dec Detachment G coverage of [redacted]
[redacted]

1964

- 1 Jan Supply depot for A-12-peculiar equipment and supplies is moved from Mira Loma Depot to San Bernardino Air Materiel Area, Norton AFB, California, and the Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson assumes full manpower and logistics control at the new depot for OXCART, TAGBOARD, and the SR-71.
- 3 Jan NRP Monthly Forecast of all reconnaissance overflights for approval by the Special Group is promulgated.
- 3 Feb The A-12 sustains flight at design conditions of Mach 3.2 at 83,000 feet for 10 minutes.
- 29 Feb President Johnson surfaces the existence of the A-11 (YF-12A) version of the OXCART aircraft to the press and public.
- 12 Mar OSA prepares a report on the vulnerability of satellites to the Soviet threat.
- 16 Mar First operational use is made of the BIRDWATCHER on U-2 mission over South China.

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[redacted] 888-69/Chron

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~~TOP SECRET~~1964 (cont'd)

22 Mar Eleventh loss of U-2 is suffered, No. 356, with [] pilot, [] Aircraft and pilot are lost off the south coast of [] on a training mission.

24 Apr The Special Group approves an operation to obtain coverage of []

30 Apr Detachment G activates a staging base [], the staging team arrives at base 19 May 1964.

19-22 May []

24 May Detachment G accomplishes one successful mission [] the mission U-2 aircraft is damaged on landing.

27 May []

7 Jul Twelfth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 362 (U-2G) with [] Aircraft and pilot are lost on operational mission over [] of [] across [].

9 Jul Second A-12 loss is suffered, No. 133. Lockheed test pilot ejects safely as aircraft crashes on approach to runway [].

1 Sep Executive Committee, NRP, votes against procurement of new U-2 version and puts it off in favor of a temporary, piece-meal solution of modifications.

5 Nov A limited capability of the A-12 to cover Cuba, if required, is established, but decision is made not to expose this capability until the A-12 has reached its maximum operational capabilities.

16 Dec Detachment G begins 3-mission coverage of [] and the NEFA [] pending on 20 December 1964.

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~~TOP SECRET~~1965

- 10 Jan Thirteenth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 358 (U-2C) with [] Aircraft and pilot are lost on [] probable cause believed to be a hit by surface-to-air missile.
- 3 Feb [] Director of Program B under [] forecasts the life expectancy of the U-2 to be about two more years; no successor with the U-2's capability is expected to be available in the immediate future.
- 18 Mar DOD/CIA heads agree to take preparatory steps toward operating the A-12 over Communist China, []
- 25 Apr Fourteenth loss of U-2 is suffered, No. 382 (U-2G), with Detachment G pilot, [] Test flight of carrier-configured aircraft goes out of control, pilot bails out but chute does not open.
- 28 Apr Admiral William F. Raborn replaces John A. McCone as Director of Central Intelligence; Mr. Helms replaces Gen. Carter as DDCI.
- 21 Jun Recommendation for procurement of an improved version of the U-2 is made to the DNRO by Director, Program B [] and Director, Program D []
- 27 Jul Title of Assistant Director, OSI, is changed to Director, OSA, along with similar changes in all DDS&T Offices.
- 15 Sep Office of Special Projects (OSP) is established and satellite activities previously under OSA's direction are transferred to OSP. OSA retains manned reconnaissance programs.
- 1 Oct Joint agreement between OSP and OSA on management concept and transfer of resources, responsibilities, and authorities regarding satellite activities is signed.

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[] 888-69/Chron

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1965 (cont'd)

- 2 Oct Joint OSA/OSP agreement is signed giving OSP responsibility for development and modification of computer programs in support of satellite operations and for response to Satellite Operations Center requirements; OSA to supply programmers and computer operators for OSP input data.
- 6 Oct Headquarters Notice is issued announcing the establishment of OSP.
- 22 Oct Fifteenth loss of U-2 is suffered, No. 352 (U-2C), with [redacted] On a training mission from [redacted] pilot and aircraft are lost in the sea [redacted] cause uncertain.
- 15 Nov Revised guidance for project pilots down in hostile territory is approved within CIA and cleared with the NSC Special Group on 16 December 1965.
- 20 Nov The A-12 aircraft reliability validation is completed for deployment to the Far East and certified by contractor engineers.
- 3 Dec The Special Group (303 Committee) approves all steps being taken toward OXCART Far East deployment short of actually moving the aircraft to Okinawa.
- 28 Dec Third A-12 loss is suffered, No. 124. Aircraft crashes following take-off due to faulty wiring connection in yaw and pitch gyros; pilot ejects safely.

1966

- 17 Feb Sixteenth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 372, (U-2F), with [redacted] Training mission crashes after overshooting runway on landing following flame-out and emergency landing; pilot is killed, plane demolished.
- 25 Feb Seventeenth U-2 loss is suffered (non-fatal to pilot), No. 342 (U-2F), with [redacted] of Detachment G. Structural failure to aircraft occurs following practice refueling with KC-135, aircraft disintegrates, pilot bails out safely.

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[redacted] 8888-69/Chron

~~TOP SECRET~~1966 (cont'd)

- 16 May DDS&T recommends to DNRO that U-2R as described in Lockheed 27 December 1965 proposal be procured. No action is taken until August 1966.
- 17 Jun [] pilot training program in the U-2 is re-located at Detachment G Headquarters at Edwards North Base, being withdrawn from the Air Force training program at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona.
- 21 Jun Eighteenth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 384 (U-2C), with [] On training flight from [] aircraft goes out of control, pilot bails out too low and chute fails to open. Both aircraft and pilot fall into the sea []
- 30 Jun Mr. Richard Helms is appointed DCI, vice Adm. Raborn.
- 21 Jul Revised [] Control System Manual is issued.
- 1 Aug NRP Executive Committee approves a first U-2R procurement of 8 aircraft with the understanding that additional procurement will be considered in conjunction with the 1968 budget.
- 1 Aug OSA staff changes occur: Col. Paul N. Bacalis, USAF, is named Director, OSA, vice Brig. Gen. Jack C. Ledford, who returns to the Air Force; Mr. John Parangosky is appointed Deputy Director, OSA, vice Mr. J. A. Cunningham, Jr., reassigned to O/DDS&T; and [] is appointed Deputy for Technology of OSA, vice Mr. Parangosky.
- 12 Aug Divergent views on deployment of OXCART to the Far East to cover North Vietnam and South China are presented for Presidential decision and Mr. Johnson decides against deployment for the time being.
- 15 Sep The 303 Committee votes not to commit OXCART aircraft to Cuban coverage as it might disturb the existing calm prevailing in that area of foreign affairs.
- 26 Sep Mr. Carl E. Duckett is appointed Acting DDS&T vice Dr. A. D. Wheelon, resigning to return to industry.

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~~TOP SECRET~~1966 (cont'd)

- 15 Oct [redacted] is named Chief, Contracts Division, OSA, vice [redacted] reassigned to the [redacted] office.
- 23 Nov The NRP Executive Committee approves procurement of 4 additional U-2R's with total of 12 deliveries to be stretched out in order to maintain a follow-on procurement order for the next year.
- 12 Dec At a meeting to consider the [redacted] Parangosky Report on OXCART/SR-71 comparison, Messrs. Vance (DOD), Schultze (BOB), and Hornig (White House) vote to cancel OXCART; Mr. Helms (CIA) votes to share the eventual fleet of A-12 and SR-71 aircraft between SAC and CIA.
- 20 Dec DCI letter to Mr. Schultze, BOB, states the view that CIA should remain in the reconnaissance business.
- 22 Dec [redacted]
- 28 Dec President Johnson accepts the recommendations of Messrs. Vance, Hornig and Schultze and directs the termination of OXCART by 1 January 1968. (A six-month extension of OXCART occurs due to the SR-71 system not being prepared to take over on time:)
- 31 Dec The OSA T/O ceiling shows 761 authorized, largely for OXCART; only 130 are engaged in U-2 activities.

1967

- 5 Jan Fourth A-12 loss is suffered, No. 125, with contract pilot Walter L. Ray. Pilot ejects when aircraft crashes near Leith, Nevada, but failure of separation from ejection seat causes his death on impact. News release describes aircraft as SR-71 operating out of Edwards AFB with Lockheed test pilot.

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~~TOP SECRET~~1967 (cont'd)

- 17 Mar Revised [] agreement for operation of joint US/[] U-2 project is signed by [] and [] Director, []
- 20 Apr Mr. C. E. Duckett is confirmed as DDS&T.
- 16 May Presidential approval is received for immediate deployment of OXCART BLACK SHIELD contingent to obtain photo coverage of North Vietnam.
- 17-19 May Airlift to Kadena, Okinawa, of BLACK SHIELD contingent is accomplished. First A-12 is ferried over on 22 May, second on 24 May, third on 26 May. Total of 260 personnel are deployed.
- 31 May First BLACK SHIELD mission is flown over North Vietnam and the DMZ. Seventy of 190 known SAM sites in North Vietnam are photographed and nine out of 27 COMIREX top priority targets are covered.
- 30 Jul All property of IDEALIST is removed [] and the operation there is closed out.
- 8 Sep Nineteenth U-2 loss is suffered, No. 373, with [] pilot, [] On operational mission over [] aircraft is shot down in vicinity of [] by surface-to-air missile; fate of pilot unknown but presumed dead.
- 30 Oct Post-flight inspection of A-12 aircraft reveals that a piece of metal penetrated the lower wing surface--possibly part of the debris from a missile detonation, since 8 missiles were reported launched during the aircraft's mission.
- 6 Nov Discovery of cracked wing in a SAC U-2 at Bien Hoa causes grounding of all U-2's effective 6 November 1967 and subsequent ultrasonic inspection at Lockheed to check metal fatigue. (Mr. C. L. "Kelly" Johnson had estimated the wing life of the U-2 at about 5,000 hours.)

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~~TOP SECRET~~1968

- 21 Jan OSA moves from the 6-B corridor of Langley to the [redacted]
- 16 Mar Last U-2 overflight of [redacted] is flown by [redacted] pilot; flights later restricted to peripheral offshore missions.
- 18 Apr DCI Helms expresses the view to the NRP Executive Committee that the OXCART capability should be maintained at [redacted] under CIA management.
- 29 Apr SAC's SR-71 deployment to Kadena without incident is reported to the NRP Executive Committee.
- 29 Apr DCI Helms recommends retention [redacted] for exotic testing, such as the MIG-21.
- 8 May Last mission flown by an A-12 aircraft from Kadena covers North Korea.
- 16 May Secretary of Defense reaffirms the necessity to terminate the OXCART program on budgetary grounds.
- 21 May President Johnson reconfirms the cancellation of the OXCART program.
- 4 Jun Fifth A-12 loss is suffered, No. 129, with contract pilot Jack W. Weeks. Lost on overwater test flight after engine change; last known position 520 n.m. east of the Philippines.
- 26 Jun Intelligence Star for Valor is awarded to OXCART pilots [redacted] and [redacted] and posthumously to Jack W. Weeks, accepted by his widow, in a presentation held at [redacted]
- 12 Jul [redacted] is designated Director of Special Activities, DDS&T, vice [redacted] who returns to the Air Force SR-71 program.
- 13 Nov The NRP Executive Committee votes a 50-50 split of U-2R's between CIA and SAC and maintenance of 6 active U-2's by each with the U-2/C-G versions to be used as replacements for losses. A grant of [redacted] FY 1970 funds for OSA's FORTUNE COOKIE drone program is approved and [redacted] for a QRC program.

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