

(b) (1)
(b) (3) -50 USC 403
(b) (3) -18 USC 798
(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

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12 NOV 1958

FEB 24 '98 09:08AM NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Release of Intercept Information on USAF C-130 Crash

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to formalize and set forth, as a matter of record, COMINT policy agreements and decisions which have been made regarding the release of certain information on the crash of a USAF C-130 aircraft in Soviet Armenia on 2 September 1958.

2. An USAF C-130 aircraft, with seventeen crew members aboard, crashed in Soviet Armenia on 2 September 1958. The Soviets have returned the bodies of six members of the aircraft, but deny having any knowledge of the eleven remaining personnel who were aboard. Intercept tapes of Russian ~~air-to-air~~ air-to-air voice communications were obtained by the National Security Agency. These tapes revealed that the C-130 was shot down by Soviet fighter aircraft.

3. The United States Intelligence Board, in executive session on 30 September 1958, authorized the public release of the intercept information [redacted]

4. [redacted] no objection from a COMINT technical viewpoint to the release of the intercept information on the crash of the C-130. [redacted]

5. Two intercept tapes have been prepared by NSA; the first a complete recording of all Russian voice communications which were intercepted; the second, excerpts containing highlights of the Soviet firing on the U. S. aircraft. Transcriptions in Russian and English of both tapes have been made by NSA. The excerpts are to be played to the Soviet Ambassador to the United States and the Soviet Air Attache by the Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, on or about 14 November 1958. The transcriptions are to be de-classified by cutting off the classification stamps and are to be given to the Soviet Ambassador at that time.

6. Further release of the information may be made to the public pending the decisions reached by the Department of State, the U. S. Air Force and the Department of Defense.

Approved for Release by NSA on 09-13-2011, EOIA Case # 8278

W. C. Cummings
DEPT. OF STATE
Director of Intelligence and Research

[Signature]
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
DEPT. OF DEFENSE

[Signature]
U. S. AIR FORCE

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Chronology of [redacted] State Department
Actions on C-130 Incident

19 and
20 Sept

Sovetskaya Aviatayia published articles describing the operation giving the impression it was just a routine exercise. (Incl #2) was spotted about 3 weeks later by GENB-3 during normal processing of this newspaper.

22 Sept

26 Sept

27 Sept

GENB-33 originated cable to SSO SAC, SSO USAF [redacted] giving preliminary analysis of the incident. (Not available)

29 Sept

GENB-3 published end-product translation of first reel (wire and hard copy, 3/0 [redacted] T50-58, [redacted]). (Incl #4) This was later canceled and republished to include second reel (see 3 Oct).

1 Oct

Second reel of tape recording [redacted] available for analysis (Receipt not available).

3 Oct

Second reel had been analyzed and translated; PROD requested category 2 publication of translation; PROD stated [redacted] restriction unnecessary. Thus, 3/0 [redacted] T60-58 was canceled, [redacted] information was deleted, and complete translation of both reels was published by GENB-3 (2/0 [redacted] T01-58). (Incl #5)

3 Oct

[redacted] published end-product report giving translation of radio-telephone material and analysis (received later) of PVO tracking reports. (Incl #6)

15 Oct

GENB-3 published end-product report summarizing information from PVO tracking reports, from radiotelephone and from newspaper articles (3/0 [redacted] 3182-58, Incl #7).

1 Oct

30 Oct

2 Oct

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7 Oct NSA prepared edited version of tape recording and material described in Incl #9 was forwarded to the State Department.

7 Nov

8 Nov Two GENS analysts went to State Department to resolve differences between versions of the incident.

13 Nov One GENS analyst went to State Department for Menchikov meeting.

Dec and Jan Numerous contacts with USAF, AFSS, State, etc.

5 Feb State Department released tapes and translation to the press. (Incl #11)

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