

19 OCT 1960

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

I have received with interest the letter of August 21, 1960 from [redacted] of San Angelo, Texas, which was forwarded by the Department of State under date of October 6, 1960. You may appreciate that many aspects of the matters treated by [redacted] are still in the classified field. In addition, even though the trial by the Soviets is over, Mr. Powers is still a prisoner in their hands. Hence, we must be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his personal situation more difficult.

I would like to note that Mr. Powers was held over 100 days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States Embassy representatives prior to his trial. Undoubtedly the Soviets could have indoctrinated him during that period to say many things they desired to have come out at the trial. This they can accomplish effectively, even short of all of the techniques of "brainwashing."

The service performed by the men who participated in the U-2 program was extremely valuable for the security of this country. They were chosen on the basis of past training and other technical, mental and ideological qualifications, together with a willingness to serve and full knowledge of the dangers inherent in the task.

Arrangements have been made to handle Mr. Powers' salary for the future in accordance with his legal rights under his contract and the provisions of applicable statutes.

While the foregoing may not answer fully the points raised by Mr. [redacted] I hope the information set forth will be helpful in answering his letter.

If I may be of further assistance in this matter, would you please advise me.

Sincerely,

John S. Warner  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure - [redacted] Letter

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