

Sanitized - Approved For Release :

FOIAb3b

AF Intelligence Chief Denies Rift With CIA

CPYRGHT By John A. Goldsmith
United Press International

The Air Force intelligence chief testified yesterday that there was complete cooperation between the Air Force and the CIA in providing air reconnaissance of Cuba at the time of last fall's missile crisis.

Maj. Gen. Robert A. Breitweiser gave the testimony at a closed session of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee. Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) relayed parts of his testimony to reporters after the session.

Stennis also said that Breitweiser's testimony did not indicate there was any "gap" in reconnaissance when aerial surveillance was transferred from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Air Force prior to the U. S.-Soviet showdown.

The Defense Department said Tuesday that the transfer was made a day or two before offensive missiles were found in Cuba on Oct. 14. However, the Department said there was no conflict between the CIA and Pentagon over how reconnaissance should be handled.

But the Department's statement prompted Rep. Paul G. Rogers (D-Fla.) to suggest that the CIA may have been responsible for a photographic "time lag" that almost permitted Russia to complete installation of offensive missiles in Cuba.

The aerial photos of Cuban missile bases have been made public for the period from Sept. 5 until Russian missiles were discovered on Oct. 14.

Stennis said he did not think there was a "complete" gap period during which no photos were taken. His careful comment did not conflict with previous statements that bad weather curtailed some

flights in the period from early September to mid-October and that some flights were diverted after a Nationalist Chinese U-2 was shot down by the Chinese Communists.

Stennis said Breitweiser described the photo shift from the CIA to the Air Force as "the natural thing to do" because there was a great increase in activity with a resulting increase in requirements, and the Air Force had more facilities and pilots.

"He made it very clear that so far as he knows and believes there was the fullest and most complete cooperation between the Air Force and the CIA" during the transition period, Stennis said.

Before the hearing with Breitweiser, Stennis said his subcommittee's Cuba investigation was designed to help the Government judge possible future events in the situation rather than to spotlight any past errors.

In related developments:

• Col. Jose Luis Cruz Salazar, a member of the three-man junta that overthrew a Communist regime in Guatemala in 1964, said the Communists once again are trying to influence a presidential election there. He told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee that the Communists were infiltrating local political parties.

• Paraguayan Ambassador Juan P. "emphatically" denied Cuban refugee reports that Russia was establishing a secret military base in his country. He said neither the people nor the government of Paraguay would permit any such activity.