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IDEA 2343-65 NH
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18 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

SUBJECT : Chicom Tactics Against U-2

REFERENCE : Memorandum from C/PLANS/FA/OSA to D/FA/OSA; dated 17 March 1965; Subject: Same as Above (IDEA 2464)

1. The maximum MIG-19 altitude is 59,000 feet, lightly loaded. The MIG-21 initial altitude for executing a zoom maneuver is not higher than 47,000 feet and probably lower. Even at 47,000 feet, the spread between the MIG-21 and mission aircraft would be five miles vertically and since zoom maneuver normally performed at 30°, plus or minus 5°, slant range to MIG-21 start of intercept would be about ten miles. Spread between MIG-19 and U-2 is more than two miles vertically and probably three to four miles slant range for air-to-air rocket firing. Since air-to-air rockets would be slung externally, it seems hard to believe that the MIG-19, with external stores, could exceed above 52,000 feet. With or without AI radar assistance, MIG-19 would have to hold U-2 visually and perform a snap-up maneuver; not to gain altitude but to point rocket pods. This range would be somewhere around six miles from U-2. Size of black puffs observed by pilot appear to be rocket in excess of Zuni or Mighty Mouse size.

2. Paragraph 4 infers that MIG-21 speed is compatible with U-2 descent speed. It must be remembered that at 75,000 feet MIG-21 is virtually uncontrollable and its rate of descent from the maneuver is in excess of free-fall speed. He is not clearly superior by any means, simply because he has no control to bring his weapon to bear on the U-2 at this altitude. The recovery of the MIG-21 from such a maneuver is probably in the 30,000 foot category and certainly not above 60,000 feet.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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4. As for Paragraph 7, the largest known AAA rifle in existence is the 130 millimeter gun. This has a maximum confirmed trajectory height of about 36,000 feet.

SIGNED


Chief, Intelligence Division
Office of Special Activities

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