

Thursday, 23 August

1. At a Special Group Meeting on 23 August a discussion of the U-2 reconnaissance program for China took place. During this discussion, General Taylor also said for all overflights he wanted the presentation in the same format every time and with the same kind of map every time so that he could go directly to the President on these matters without changing format or getting into involved presentations. (Action Memo No. 36 - 23 Aug.)
2. (DCI left Washington at 5:55)

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-36

Date 23 August 1962

TO : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Special Group Debriefing, 23 August -- U-2 Reconnaissance Program for China

REFERENCE:

1. The Special Group discussion on this subject ended in a blaze of confusion. General Taylor continually referred to a memorandum for the President dated July 20 under his signature, which he stated was the Special Group policy. He did not seem to be receptive to the idea that the new proposal was a new program and was not an adjunct to, and should not be considered in the light of, the July 20 memorandum. (I did not have this memorandum with me and I do not recall ever having seen it.) General Taylor also said for all overflights, he wanted the presentation in the same format every time and with the same kind of map every time so that he could go directly to the President on these matters without changing format or getting into involved presentations. The discussion was rather lengthy, at times almost heated and, as I said above, confused. However, the net result was that if we can explain clearly to General Taylor just what we want and what its relationship is to the July 20 memo, then we do not have to go back to the Special Group for further action but General Taylor will clear it with the President.

2. Please prepare an appropriate memorandum for the President for General Taylor's signature with an appropriate map or maps (the format to be generally in accordance with what General Taylor has used before), explaining to the President exactly what we are asking for and why, and indicating the routes to be flown on the maps as we have done before. It should be related to the July 20 memorandum. Let me see it before it goes over, and in fact prepare a forwarding note for my signature.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

SUSPENSE DATE:

[Redacted]

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

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P. S. There appeared to be no confusion on my part, or on General Lemnitzer's part, or on Colonel Steakley's part, or on [redacted] part, as to what we want and why. I think General Taylor was probably inadequately pre-briefed on the problem. In any event, let's start over again as indicated above. Colonel Steakley was present throughout this discussion and I asked him to get in touch with [redacted] right away and work out what is required. He may have a somewhat different slant but if there is any problem, come see me.

MSC

MSC:bjp

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