

SECRET

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Attachment
USIB-D-41. 14/82
(COMOR-D-24/96)
18 October 1963
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Request for Security Ruling on Aerial
Reconnaissance Movie over Cuba

1. COMOR has considered an urgent request of the Navy for a COMOR opinion to be considered by the United States Intelligence Board at the earliest practicable date. The Navy requests approval to release, at an unclassified level and for public consumption, a color movie taken over Cuba which is now classified SECRET.

2. In its consideration, COMOR took note of the following:

a. The only known cases of releases to the public of aerial reconnaissance photography taken over Cuba were in connection with the Cuban Crisis of 1962.

b. The only Board ruling on classification of Cuba overflight materials known to bear on this problem had to do specifically with the product of high-altitude reconnaissance (see USIB-D-41. 5/33; COMOR-D-24/27, 29 October 1962). This ruling permitted release of the materials from special security channels at the SECRET level but with restrictions on future downgrading.

c. Neither COMOR nor the Board participated in the ruling that low-altitude photography should be classified SECRET. This was probably a logical deduction by the operator based on the Board ruling in regard to the high-altitude reconnaissance.

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d. As far as COMOR knows the Board has not ruled on the classification of overhead movie photography at low altitude nor aerial photography acquired over Cuba in any other way.

3. Conclusion:

a. That the classification applicable to high and low altitude photography over Cuba should almost certainly apply to low-level movies taken over Cuba.

b. That the practice of releasing overflight photography of a denied area for public relations purposes could have extensive ramifications. One could, for example, readily argue that because of the public release last fall, thereafter, any BK material through 1962, say, might also be useful in public relations.

4. Recommendation: That the Board rule that the subject material remain classified **SECRET** and therefore not releasable for public relations purposes.

(Signed)
James Q. Reber
Chairman
Committee on Overhead
Reconnaissance

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