

17 March 1954

Pls call upon this

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Far East Division
Mr. Doole -- O/Admin/DD/P ✓

SUBJECT:

Further review and tightening up of CAT cover situation as regards CAT pilots in Indo-China. *

1. For the third time within the past ten days, the Director raised a series of searching questions concerning our over-all position and preparedness to cope with the possible eventuality of the loss, from enemy action, of one or more of the CAT air-crews now operating in Indo-China.

2. The Director was given a certain amount of reassurance concerning the contractual arrangements between CAT, as such, and the pilots, including provisions for insurance benefits. However, the Director's questions were much broader than this and what he really wanted was for us to take every step we can possibly think of to ready ourselves for what might happen in the wake of the loss of CAT pilots or crew members who are US citizens in Indo-China. He pointed out that there would probably be considerable hue and cry in the press and possibly demands for congressional investigation of the circumstances involved in the death of US citizens in this "foreign war."

3. There may be some nuts to be tightened up and possibly some new angles to be worked on, and in any case this should receive your priority attention and consideration and any constructive thoughts which you may develop should be coordinated, as appropriate, with the CAT officials, the State Department and perhaps the Department of Defense. These are the most likely original targets for questioning and criticism, and we should be sure that there is a well understood party line.

4. The Director was reminded that as far as State and Defense are concerned they specifically approved of the proposed contract between CAT and the French authorities for the employment of CAT crews (American). [It is my recollection that the NCC and/or the OCB were also put on notice of this proposed contract, but this point should be checked again in our records.]

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5. There was a discussion of the analogy between this present situation and the old -- pre-US entry into World War II -- gimmick of the Flying Tigers. The set-up was somewhat different in that the Chinese Nationalist Government was the cut-out -- operator -- but the fact was there nonetheless that the funds were provided by the US Government to the Chinats, that US citizens were involved in a "foreign war", and that the Government winked at certain laws which were on the statute books at the time and which by their terms were restrictive or prohibitive of such actions. It would be useful to have General Counsel's Office check the laws of the 1940-41 period with today's laws applicable to this subject. It is my impression that the old Neutrality Act had real teeth in it, but that this law was substantially repealed or amended in connection with Lend-Lease.

FRANK C. WIENER
Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: DCI via DDCT

9442

18 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Far East Division
CAO/DD/P - Attention: Mr. Doole ✓

SUBJECT : Reference memorandum

REFERENCE : Memorandum for C/FE and Mr. Doole from DD/P dated 17 March 1954; subject: Further review and tightening up of CAT cover situation as regards CAT pilots in Indochina.

1. After General Cabell had read his copy of the reference memorandum, he was apprised that FE was undertaking to formulate a cover story or have State formulate a cover story which could be used in the event that one of the CAT pilots were lost in FIC. He stated that in addition to this he felt that what the Director had in mind was to provide a cover story for others who might be concerned in that eventuality including (a) each pilot in the event he is captured and (b) the other pilots working in the area, Ambassador Heath, CAT itself, General Navarre, the Defense Department and CIA, and in the last instance, the cover story may well be completely negative. In formulating any cover story -- and it is recognized that it will be based largely on the truth -- consideration should be given to various subsidiary eventualities such as the death within Communist territory, death within friendly territory or capture by the Communists.

2. Will you please undertake to advise and assist in the formulation of these cover stories to be communicated to those concerned and checked out with them as to whether they are acceptable.

ARTHUR L. JACOBS
Special Assistant to DE/P

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22 March 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR (100-100000)

SUBJECT: Cover Situation as Regards C.T. Flights
in Indo-China *

- REFERENCES:
- a. Memorandum for C.T. and Mr. Doole from DE/P, dated 17 March 1954 on similar subject.
 - b. Memorandum for C.T. and Mr. Doole, DD/T-Admin from Special Assistant to DE/P, dated 18 March 1954 on similar subject.

1. Fortunately, the cover of C.T.'s participation in Indo-China is natural and is based on a large part of the whole truth. Having a requirement for additional aircrews, the French by their own will contracted with C.T., an organization which is widely known to be strongly anti-communist and willing and able to take on extraordinary tasks. The portion of truth which is omitted (not necessarily noticeably) is the fact that through its connection with C.T. the United States Government discretely exerted its influence with a view to C.T. obtaining the contract.

2. With regard to coordination with other departments of the Government, it should be remembered that C.T.'s present participation is being done at the specific request of both the Departments of State and Defense. A few days ago we reminded the Department of State that they might be required to explain publicly the involvement of C.T. and his American employees, especially in the event of the loss of American lives. They responded to the effect that they were prepared for such a possibility.

3. Along these lines the attached clipping from the New York Times, 21 March 1954 is of interest. Moreover, on 5 March the Department of State authorized the U.S. Consul in Hanoi to issue multi-language certificates to each of the C.T. aircrew identifying the bearer as an American citizen, giving his passport number, and stating that the bearer is not a member of the United States Armed Forces or an official of the United States Government. The Consul was further instructed to request the aircrew not to carry their passports during flights. The individuals are identified as C.T. employees through certificates issued by C.T.

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4. While there have been a few press articles allegedly quoting QAT officials regarding the Indo-China job, for which QAT has been authorized, a procedure has been established whereby the QAT representative in Indo-China on this operation will work together with a representative of SAC in case of emergency and accident. This will, of course, include information transmitted through Agency channels describing the nature of the emergency or the accident and the action to be taken.

5. Naturally, the aircrews should consider themselves simply employees of QAT, a non-military airline, whether they have knowledge of the United States Government and/or not. It is obviously in their own interests, in case of capture by the enemy, not to mention QAT interest.

6. As to benefits payable to the decedent's and/or nearest of kin in the event of capture or death, the existing personnel procedures and out-of-pocket are felt to be adequate. Upon approval of this kind-ness of a specific incident the Agency will pay double indemnity to the beneficiary of an aircrew member who loses his life on a hazardous assignment. The Agency for this purpose has a self-insurance plan.

7. Although the above is an approximate statement on this subject, it is an attempt to set forth the current pertinent factors. This whole matter is receiving continuing consideration by this office so as to be as well prepared as we can be for any and all contingencies.

J. C. [unclear]
Chief, [unclear]

Attachment

- Dist:
- Addresser - 2
- DP/T-Admin - 1
- QAT - 1
- FI/4 - 1
- FI/6 - 2
- Registry - 1

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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DATE: 17 APR 54

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: [REDACTED]

ACTION: FE 6

INFO: COP, DD/P-ADMIN 2, FI, FI/OPS, PP 2, PM 5, FI/RI 2, (SUSPENSE DD/1)

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[REDACTED] (b)(3)

FOLLOWING IS USAIRA TAIPEI MESSAGE TO DEPTAF INFO CINCPAC OF 16 APRIL:

"NO FORN. FOLLOWING INFO RECEIVED FROM ROBERT ROUSSELOT DIRECTOR OPERATIONS CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT: CREWS REPORT INSUFFICIENT AND INEFFECTIVE AIR COVER IN AIRDROP AND NAPALM MISSIONS. CREWS STATE VIET MINH ANTI-AIRCRAFT CONSISTS SIX 37MM GUNS, POSSIBLE FEW AS FOUR. GUNS MOVED NIGHTLY. CAT PERSONNEL STATE SUFFICIENT AIRCRAFT AND CREWS TO DEAL WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS BUT TACTICS OF FRENCH AIR FORCE RESEMBLE WORLD WAR ONE TACTICS. DROPS MADE BY FRENCH AIR FORCE FROM C47 AIRCRAFT FROM HIGH ALTITUDES WITH RESULT APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT FALLING HANDS VIET MINH. HIGH DROPS BY FRENCH AIR FORCE MADE SIMULTANEOUS WITH LOW DROPS MADE CAT MANNED CREWS WITH RESULT STREAMERS ENDANGERING CAT MANNED C419'S ROUSSELOT REPORTS EXCELLENT POSSIBILITIES COLLECTION AIR INTELLIGENCE IN AREA. RECOMMENDS THIS PURPOSE AIR FORCE OFFICER BE ASSIGNED EITHER AS MEMBER CAT CREW OR OPERATIONS DUTY WITH CAT CR

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17 APR 54



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PAGE -2-

HIS COMPANY (CAT) WILL COOPERATE IN ANYWAY REQUESTED BY AIR
FORCE. WITHIN THEIR LIMITED CAPABILITIES CAT WILL CONTINUE
FURNISH THIS OFFICE SUCH INFO THEY OBTAIN."

END OF MESSAGE

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