

The Secretary of State Was Second Only to the President in Unawareness

Were They Going to Continue U-2 Flights While Ike Was in Russia?

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to evade responsibility for almost everything else which has gone wrong in his Administration, decided to march up and shoulder this one. Unfortunately the Senate Foreign Relations Committee can question Cabinet officers but not Presidential aides. The result was to leave Secretary Herter holding the bag for Hagerty, and the Secretary of State proved second only to the President in unawareness of what has been going on.

Flights Stopped During Suez Crisis

There is evidence that at moments when somebody was minding store, official Washington was aware that U-2 flights were in a dangerous special category. Chalmers Roberts in a special account in the *Washington Post* May 27, the day the hearings began, said U-2 flights were suspended during the Suez crisis negotiations with the Russians in September, 1956. John Foster Dulles was then Secretary of State. Somebody seems to have realized that a strange plane suddenly appearing over Russia in that tense situation might have triggered trouble. According to a *New York Times* story May 30 by Hanson Baldwin, U-2 flights were "temporarily suspended just prior to, during and after Premier Khrushchov's visit to the United States" last September but resumed "with the subsequent delay of the summit meeting and of President Eisenhower's scheduled visit to the Soviet Union." If true, on that occasion, too, somebody realized that a U-2 flight would risk upsetting negotiations. Mr. Roberts, in his account, also reported, "CIA officials contend that there was to be a cut-off of U-2 flights before the Summit", the only question being "how much time constituted a margin of safety"

Was the May 1 Flight to Be The Last?

It is hard to believe that even in this capital officials would be idiotic enough to continue the U-2 flights at the very time

On the Public's Right to Know

"It has been the policy of each Secretary of State under whom I have been honored to serve, going back to Cordell Hull, that, not only are the American people entitled to know the facts—within the limits of essential and legitimate security requirements—but it is essential that they have an understanding of the alternatives that face this Nation . . . there is not only a right to know—there is an obligation on the part of the good citizen to seek out the facts. . . ."

—The News Division of the Dept. of State, by Lincoln White, press officer since 1939, Dept. Pub. 6859.

Senator GORE: You say now that on the 5th you received this information that the pilot was probably alive and yet, on the afternoon of the 6th, this Mr. Lincoln White, official spokesman for the department, said this: "There was absolutely no deliberate attempt to violate the Soviet Air Space and there never has been." Did you authorize that statement?

Under Secretary DILLON: No, not specifically.

—Senate Foreign Relations Committee, May 27

the President was conferring in Paris or would send them overhead when he was visiting Russia. When Senator Fulbright asked Secretary Herter "Was any moratorium agreed upon prior to May 1, to be effective at any time after May 1," the Secretary gave the curious answer "I have heard reports to that effect, but of my own knowledge I do not know." When Fulbright asked him at another point whether there had been any moratorium during the Camp David talks, Herter replied that so far as he knew there was no such moratorium. But it is evident from the record that the Secretary of State knew little and could do less. When Senator Humphrey asked whether he could not have vetoed the flights, he answered "I could only have given my advice to the President."

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