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26 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Joint Planning on Telemetry Collection

1. Confirming information given you, there follows the action taken with regard to the highly successful System VII missions.

2. Headquarters USAF and CIA air operations personnel jointly planned a telemetry mission 9 June through Iran which included a SAC RB-47 aircraft with manned telemetry collection equipment, and a CIA U-2 with System VII automatic collection equipment. The purpose of the joint planning was to coordinate both efforts and ensure that the aircraft would be on station at the proper time with respect to the optimum operation of each equipment. By virtue of the higher altitude of the U-2 (65,000 feet) the System VII was able to pick up missile telemetry approximately 80 seconds after missile launch time. This intercept provided 30 seconds of telemetry prior to first stage burn-out and was the first such intercept recording by the intelligence community. The RB-47 at a lower altitude with manned equipment is able to search for and detect new telemetry frequencies and was able to get second stage telemetry which provides confirmatory information for the U-2 intercept. This mutually confirmed information ensures greater precision to analysts determining the size, type and other characteristics of engines used in the missile.

3. A third partner in this effort was NSA, who advised the alerted CIA and SAC crews at Adana six hours prior to shot time. Take-off timing and flight planning was such that both SAC aircraft and the U-2 were at optimum positions at blast-off time as was planned. Due to the high altitude and proper functioning of System VII, the U-2 was able to secure first stage telemetry signals for the first time from a Russian ICBM. The SAC effort was also successful, but due to the lower altitude (35,000 feet) it was unable to pick up the telemetry signals at as early a time. Analysts in Washington were able to correlate the various occurrences incident to the missile launch with a high degree of precision due to the results accruing from the Joint SAC/CIA effort. All data is now in the hands of the missile experts, who will proceed with the detailed analysis.

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4. Coverage of the 18 June space shot attempt from Tyura Tam was jointly planned as well. It is believed that this Russian space attempt was a failure. Telemetry signals were received by the System VII equipment which may possibly be useful in providing information concerning malfunctions in the missile. It is believed that there may have been a malfunction in the missile telemetry equipment itself. As of this date no information is available concerning possible intercepts by the SAC RB-47 on this mission.

5. Joint planning with Headquarters, USAF, will be continued preceding every alert for Russian ICBM or space launch.

SIGNED



Colonel, USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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