

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

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THE WASHINGTON POST CIA MISSION

In a nationwide TV address in the aftermath of U.S. airstrikes against Libya and its bad-mouthing leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, on April 14, 1986, President Ronald Reagan asserted the retaliatory bombings were justified by "irrefutable evidence" directly linking the Libyans and Qaddafi with the terrorist bombing of a Berlin (W. Germany) disco in which an American off-duty soldier had been killed.

Shortly, the prestigious newspaper, The Washington Post, published accounts attributed to informed intelligence sources in which Reagan's irrefutable evidence of Libyan guilt was said to be based on intercepts of Libyan communications by the National Security Agency (NSA), the spy agency which had purportedly broken Libya's codes (encryption of messages).

The Post article brought CIA Director William Casey rumbling out of the spy closet to play out the next act in the grand charade. Casey fumed and fulminated, threatening to prosecute the Post and others for alleged violations of national security laws. Naturally, the press trembled in fear, all the while doing its usual "freedom of speech" posturing, and Casey's charges captured headlines for days.

On April 28, 1986, news magazine U.S. News & World Report, whose Moscow correspondent Nicholas Daniloff would later be arrested by the KGB and charged with being an American spy, chipped in with a sidebar story on the strikes against Libya which claimed: "When President Reagan cited 'irrefutable' evidence that Libya was to blame for terrorist attacks against Americans, he was relying on intelligence gleaned by the Pentagon's supersecret National Security Agency. The U.S. intercepted three secret messages between Tripoli and Libyan agents in Europe tying Muammar Qadhafi's (sic) regime

to the bombing of a nightclub frequented by American servicemen in West Berlin...Although the messages were encrypted, the NSA had cracked the Libyan codes..."

About the only ones who weren't buying any of it were the Libyans. In the midst of all the clamor over the "irrefutable evidence" stories and Casey's wild charges, the Libyans announced they had executed an official in their East Berlin Peoples Bureau (embassy) for being a paid informant of America's CIA. The significance of the announcement failed to arouse the suspicions of the U.S. news media, most of whom were awash in their own claptrap at the moment.

Later on, several Palestinians and Jordanians were arrested for the Berlin disco bombing, and in November 1986 a West German court fixed the blame for the terrorist act on Syria, not Libya, stating the Syrians had provided funds and guidance for the disco destruction.

So what happened to Reagan's "irrefutable evidence," NSA's code breaks and Casey's threats to prosecute the leakers? On October 2, 1986, The Washington Post contributed further confusion to the matter by reporting national security adviser John M. Poindexter had written a memo in August 1986 outlining a program of disinformation aimed at Qaddafi and Libya. The White House confirmed that President Reagan had approved a secret plan to undermine Qaddafi by planting false information abroad, but denied the plan entailed feeding false stories to the U.S. press.

The Post's new revelations touched off another round of news media hand-wringing, all of which helped obscure a central truth: that Reagan's irrefutable evidence never existed and Libya was not responsible for the Berlin bombing.

CIA chief Casey never did follow up on any of his threats to prosecute the Post and others for damaging national security, nor were any of the leakers sought out or charged. Evident-

ly, Reagan's "irrefutable evidence" consisted of interpretations of information provided by the soon-to-be executed Libyan informant, who in all likelihood—in the manner of most paid informants—was telling his paymasters exactly what they wanted to hear. CIA Director Casey's rantings, then, were merely an attempt—however transparent and shallow—to reinforce the bogus story published by The Washington Post about the Libyan codes being broken and the interception of messages linking Libya with the Berlin bombing—a piece of clever disinformation most likely planted by the CIA in the first place.

The question remaining is whether The Washington Post was an unwitting dupe of the CIA and the Reagan administration, or a willing participant in the scheme to implicate Qaddafi and Libya in the Berlin terrorism, paving the way for U.S. bombing raids that resulted in killing children, among others. Perhaps the telling factor is the fact the Post's (Oct. 1986) story about a disinformation program planned and approved in August by the White House is itself disinformation, since the actual disinformation began several months earlier, in April, when the Post first reported the purported NSA code breaks and intercepts. Covering one big lie with another is a practice one would expect to see from the CIA and the KGB, not something one would expect from one of the nation's leading newspapers.

* * *

As a postscript, it should be noted that the primary reason the U.S. government was so paranoid about the Libyans and Qadaffi was because renegade CIA agents Edwin P. Wilson and Frank Terpil had sold Libya twenty-one tons of Composition C-4 explosive, along with a large number of equally hard-to-get miniaturized programmable time-delay detonators—the kind the CIA had made for itself and bought in quantity.

The puttylike C-4 is a particularly lethal compound, comprised mainly of RDX, the second-most powerful explosive on earth next to a nuclear reaction. A minute amount can be packed into something as small as a writing pen, then triggered by timer to kill whomever happens to be holding the pen at the appropriate moment.

The Libyans reportedly used C-4 bombs to murder a number of Libyan dissidents and expatriates. Quite likely, some of the C-4 and the CIA-designed detonators were distributed to other countries such as Iran, to be used for such terrorist missions as the bombing of the U.S. Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon, killing some 241 American soldiers.

Others implicated in the sale of explosives, weapons and high-tech devices to Libya include some of the same names popping up now in the Iran arms deal scandal: Gen. Richard Secord, former CIA official Thomas Clines, and Ted Shackley, a former CIA covert operations chief.

Wilson is behind bars, but the sale of U.S. weapons to terrorists and terrorist regimes goes on, more recently sanctioned by the President himself—the very same President who loudly denounces terrorist acts against Americans with all the fervor of a hypocritical minister who takes the pulpit to rage against sinners while his wife and mistress sit pews apart.

Finally, the very idea of some "intelligence source" coming forward to tell the Post about NSA breaking a country's codes is totally absurd. As a former cryptographer, the author knows full well cracking any code system is an extremely rare feat and would be considered a secret of the highest magnitude. It's simply implausible anyone in the intelligence business would make such a disclosure, except as deliberate disinformation—most likely as a ploy to protect an informant.

SPYING ON UFOLOGY - Pt 1
COVERT OPERATIONS.

In the January 1979 issue of my old newsletter, Just Cause, I broke the story of the apparent covert infiltration of NICAP—once the nation's leading and most powerful civilian UFO group—by Col. Joseph Bryan III, a man who presented himself as a U.S. Air Force Reserve officer, but who in reality was the founder and original director of the CIA's ultra-secret Psychological Warfare Staff.

To briefly summarize for those unfamiliar with my earlier work, Bryan had first approached Maj. (USMC-Ret) Donald Keyhoe, director of the Washington, DC-based NICAP, in 1959, expressing an interest in some of the really "hot" UFO incidents Keyhoe had alluded to in his books and in NICAP's newsletter, UFO Investigator. The wary Keyhoe immediately suspected an Air Force plot to learn the identities of his confidential sources—anonymous persons who had related amazing UFO stories to him—many of whom were high-ranking military and government officials, and Bryan's entreaty was initially rebuffed.

But the clever Bryan was not to be denied. In order to gain Keyhoe's trust, the covert operative gave the NICAP chief a statement about the UFO cover-up (Keyhoe's main thesis) to be read to the press and quoted in the group's publications. "The UFOs are interplanetary devices systematically observing Earth, either manned or remoted-controlled, or both," Bryan declared. "Information on UFOs has been officially withheld. This policy is dangerous."

As one might expect from the man who perfected psychological warfare (read: the art of lying) for the CIA, Bryan's gambit had the effect of making Keyhoe happy as a kid at Christmas. And the ploy paid off: within days of releasing the statement, Bryan was invited by Keyhoe to serve on NICAP's distinguished Board of Governors (the group's ruling body), which at the time included retired Generals and even a former CIA Director, retired Navy Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter.

By 1969, Bryan had worked his way into the position of Chairman of the Board. On Dec. 3, 1969, Bryan called an emergency session of the NICAP Board's Executive Committee, at which he distributed a memo to board members in which he characterized Keyhoe as "inept," and called for the leader's immediate dismissal. Motion entered, motion carried, as Bryan's hand-picked committee members voted out the man who had taken over the foundering NICAP in 1957 and built it up with his own sweat, blood and sacrifice, taking it to a peak of power and influence not even J. Allen Hynek, later to form the Center For UFO Studies (CUFOS), could come near equaling.

Keyhoe wrote five best-selling books attacking the UFO cover-up, and he nearly brought about Congressional investigations of the Air Force's handling of UFOs in the early and mid-1960s. At one point, NICAP had over 10,000 members and an enviable network of investigators across the country, as well as a staff of full-time diligent administrators, led by Richard (Dick) Hall. In spite of its constant financial difficulties, NICAP accomplished more with limited funds than any group before or since.

To be perfectly frank, Keyhoe's charges were not always accurate, and many of his "hot" UFO cases could never be substantiated. But no one ever questioned his dedication to the cause or his dynamic fervor. Keyhoe was a flawed hero to be sure, and his rude

ouster at Bryan's hands was only possible because of his vulnerability to being told what he wanted to hear. Yet the UFO movement would never be the same without him, and NICAP, with Keyhoe gone, began a slow slide into obscurity.

What happened to NICAP after Keyhoe was booted out can only be characterized as methodical sabotage. Bryan brought in John (Jack) Acuff to replace Keyhoe, and shortly the group's investigating network was disbanded and all the old hands were terminated. Acuff had formerly headed the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, a group comprised mainly of reconnaissance photo interpreters working for various intelligence agencies. SPSE, in fact, had been the target of frequent KGB spying attempts, and Acuff had met with Soviet agents in behalf of the FBI, in effect serving as a covert agent for the Bureau.

By late 1978, NICAP had become but a hollow shell of its former self, and Acuff, his purpose seemingly accomplished, tendered his resignation. Although many of the old NICAP mavens hovered around, forming an ad-hoc committee to save NICAP, Bryan and his henchmen were apparently set on completing the burial, not in any resurrection. In early 1979 what was left of NICAP was turned over to another mystery man, Allan Hall, a newly-retired CIA officer. Two years later Hall passed the bare bones of the dead NICAP body to the remnants of Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center For UFO Studies, by then almost as lifeless as NICAP. And thusly NICAP passed out of existence without even a decent burial ceremony.

* * *

In a 1977 interview with the author, Joseph Bryan admitted for the first time his secret CIA employment, but refused to specify the years in which he engaged covert psychological warfare for the Agency, although he disclaimed any connection between his CIA duties and his involvement with NICAP. Asked what led him to approach Keyhoe and become a member of NICAP's board, Bryan explained, "I thought the government was neglecting it (UFOs), was turning its back on it, closing its eyes to it, and I thought somebody ought to take over—express an interest in it. Don Keyhoe, whom I respected and admired very much, seemed to be the leader in this thing so I joined up with him."

Contrast Bryan's wimp-like explanation with the statement he let Keyhoe use, the one that got him invited into NICAP's inner sanctum: "UFOs are interplanetary devices... Information on UFOs has been officially withheld. This policy is dangerous."

How Bryan could expect to nearly directly contradict his 1959 statement that won him Keyhoe's trust with his watered-down 1977 version and expect anyone to believe him boggles the mind. Beyond the obvious conflict between the two is the fact Bryan would have had to know Keyhoe was constantly flogging the Air Force and that Keyhoe's charges had nothing to do with the government ignoring UFOs; rather, Keyhoe's thesis, which Bryan endorsed while on the Board, was that the Air Force knew UFOs were interplanetary spaceships but refrained from acknowledging the unsettling "truth" out of fear of touching off a full-scale public panic.

The record shows that Bryan was born in 1904, in Richmond, VA, to a wealthy publishing family. He graduated from Princeton University in 1927, then became a reporter and editorial writer with the Richmond News Leader and then the Chicago Journal. In 1931 he became the associate editor of Parade magazine, and, in 1933, managing editor of Town and Country magazine, a post he held until 1937, when he was appointed associate editor of the Saturday Evening Post, where he was employed until 1940.

Bryan began his military career as a Lieutenant in the Army Field Artillery in 1927, serving in the Army Reserves until 1937. In May 1942 he joined the Navy Reserve and went on active duty in June 1942, attaining the rank of Lt. Commander by the time he deactivated in February 1946.

Evidently, Bryan served with Admiral Halsey, famed Battle of Midway commander, for he wrote a book with Halsey, Admiral Halsey's Story, in 1947, and another book, Aircraft Carrier, in 1954. The official record shows that Bryan served in the Naval Reserve from 1942 to 1953, when he inexplicably switched branches and joined the Air Force Reserve in August 1953, getting promoted to full-bird Colonel in 1957, the rank he held when he retired from the USAFR in May 1962.

What the record doesn't show is the ultra-secret life of Joseph Bryan, the founder of psychological warfare for the CIA. After being discharged from the Navy, Bryan joined the Central Intelligence Group (CIG), the component that bridged the gap between the dis-

bandment of the wartime legendary spy agency OSS and the formation of the Central Intelligence Agency, approved by President Truman in September 1947. Headed by Rear Admiral Sidney Souers, the CIG didn't have a single spy in its employ when it was created in January 1946, so when Bryan came aboard in February he was one of the first operatives hired. The CIG had about 100 men on staff when Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenburg took over on June 10, 1946. By year's end, Vandenburg had hired another 300 spies and won the right to collect intelligence in Latin America away from the FBI. In August, the ambitious Vandenburg acquired the remnants of the OSS, then known as the Strategic Services Unit (SSU), which was then renamed the Office of Special Operations (OSO), bringing some 700 overseas operatives into the Group's fold.

On Dec. 19, 1947, the National Security Council issued a directive, NSC 4/A, ordering Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Vandenburg's successor at the CIG/CIA, to initiate a broad range of covert activities specifically intended to prevent a communist victory in the forthcoming Italian elections. Hillenkoetter handed the task to OSO, which established a Special Procedures Group to carry out the assignment.

On June 18, 1948, the National Security Council superseded NSC 4/A with NSC 10/2, which established a new covert arm of the government, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC). The director of OPC was to be appointed by the Secretary of State and report to Secretaries of State and Defense, although OPC received its funding from the CIA. Chosen by Secretary of State George Marshall to head the OPC was Frank Wisner, a veteran OSS operator in Eastern Europe who had shared a house in Germany with Allen Dulles.

Within OPC were seven branches, known as "Program Branches," including Staff 3 or Program Branch 3 (PB/3), whose duties entailed political warfare, psychological warfare, economic warfare, escape and evasion, sabotage and counter-sabotage. The founder and original chief of the Political and Psychological Warfare Staff within OPC's Program Branch 3 was Joseph Bryan III.

In his 1974 book, Undercover: Memoirs of an American Secret Agent, E. Howard Hunt (of Watergate fame) describes Bryan as "a brilliant writer and thinker." Hunt, famous within CIA circles for his "black mind" (meaning he was adept at creating lies), at Bryan's request set up courses in covert political and psychological war-

fare, which were taught to new OPC and CIA recruits. According to Hunt, Bryan's staff included famed writer Finas Farr, noted banker Gates Loyd, Louis "Pinkie" Thompson, a New Jersey and New York financier and Carlton Alsop, a highly successful movie producer and agent.

Bryan and his staff were responsible for grinding out propaganda and disinformation, which included creating posters, cartoons and false stories to be fed to the press. Hunt claims Bryan eventually "grew impatient" with the "non-operation personnel" of OPC and resigned in disgust, implying Bryan left the CIA in the early 1950s. But did Bryan really leave the Agency in 1954, as Bryan himself implies, or is the resignation story yet another product of Howard Hunt's fabled "black" mind?

For the answer, let's turn to the CIA chieftan's sudden switch from the Navy Reserve to the Air Force Reserve in 1953. Starting in 1954, Bryan served periodic active duty assignments, usually a month or two each year, with the Secretary of the Air Force, either with the Information or Administration staffs, according to Air Force records. In a 1977 interview with the author, Bryan said his position was "special assistant to two Secretaries (of the Air Force);" one of whom was Harold Talbot, stating, "...I did my best to persuade (Talbot) to let me prepare a statement for him. I told him one of these nights at two oclock in the morn- ing the AP is going to call up and say a UFO has landed—'Now what have you got to say about that?' I wanted him to have a statement ready but...he didn't want to take a position."

In the preface of The Windsor Story, a book Bryan wrote with Time-Life reporter/editor Charles J. V. Murphy (1979), Murphy writes: "(Bryan and I) came to know (the Windsors, Duke and Duchess) rather well in the years after World War Two. Both of us were then officers in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and we usually did our tours of duty in Paris at SHAPE—Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe—first under Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, U.S.A., then under Gen. Lauris Norstand, U.S.A.F."

Ah, the plot thickens. Now we have Bryan and Murphy—two peas in a pod—serving Air Force Reserve duty not in Washington, DC, where Bryan was supposedly a "special assistant," but in Paris and Europe.

Now let's turn to a favorite source of mine, a former CIA briefing officer and domestic agent, a man of candor and reliability. He states the CIA had a standing working relationship with the Secretary of the Air Force's office to use the Air Force Reserve and temporary duty assignments thereof to establish covers (pretended identities) for CIA covert operatives. Accordingly, it would seem both Bryan and Murphy were using their Air Force Reserve status to mask covert psychological warfare work being carried out in Europe for the CIA.

In Without Fear or Favor, New York Times reporter Harrison Salisbury makes mention of Joseph Bryan approaching the Times' European bureau chief, Cyrus Sulzburger, nephew of the paper's publisher, Arthur Sulzburger, asking him to sign a non-disclosure statement so that Bryan could pass information from the CIA but not have it attributed to the Agency. Evidently, Bryan had been travelling around Europe that winter (late 1950 and early 1951), signing up reporters to be provided with CIA propaganda, disinformation and misinformation.

On Jan. 15, 1951, Cyrus Sulzburger wrote a "Personal & Confidential" letter to his uncle Arthur, the Times' publisher, saying that Joseph Bryan would be visiting him in "about two weeks," adding, "I want to call this to your attention so that you are sure to see him no matter how busy you are." The younger Sulzburger closed with, "I am sorry to be so mysterious about this but I want to be sure to call this subject to your attention ahead of time so that there can be no misunderstanding." Four days later Arthur Sulzburger wrote back: "I have your note about a fellow named Bryan. Of course I'll be glad to see him and solve the mystery."

Unfortunately, whatever the CIA man's visit to the New York Times entailed remains a mystery. Arthur Sulzburger passed away before his conference with Bryan became known, and Bryan's recollections are conveniently fuzzy and contradictory, telling Marquette University historian Athan Theoharis that Cyrus Sulzburger was the "only" newspaperman he'd known in Europe and that "if I went to see (Sulzburger) I went to get information from him not give it to him."

Historian Theoharis was able to uncover further intriguing information about Bryan from FBI files released under the Freedom of Information Act. It seems Bryan gained access to the FBI's treasured "obscene files" in May 1951. The files were FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's bailiwick, to which only he or Clyde Tolson could grant entry, containing material gleaned from FBI surveillances about the sexual escapades and indiscretions of the rich and mighty—the very incriminating files Hoover used to hold sway over so many people for so many years, making him the most powerful man in the U.S.

Somehow Bryan was able to by-pass Hoover and Tolson, a fact undiscovered until early 1953, when an internal FBI investigation found Bryan had signed in to view the files. The probe resulted from Bryan making a statement at a dinner party on the eve of the November 1952 elections claiming he knew Hoover was a homosexual and that he knew who Hoover's lover was (evidently, Clyde Tolson). Someone at the party secretly reported Bryan's statement to the FBI, and Hoover ordered an investigation of Bryan in which the CIA operative's access to Hoover's 'family jewels' was discovered. Hoover, naturally, blew his stack, reportedly meting out severe punishment to those who had given Bryan clearance to see the files.

Incredibly, Bryan repeated his allegation about Hoover's sexual preferences outside a Senate hearing room in 1955, an indiscretion that was again reported to the FBI by someone overhearing the remarks. A short time later, two "senior FBI officials" went to see Bryan, whom was quite shaken by the interrogation and denied making any such innuendo. Bryan repeated his denials in a 1982 interview with Theoharis, stating he knew nothing about Hoover's sex life. He did, however, admit getting access to the vaunted 'obscene files,' claiming it came about through "official channels" as a result of him being a member of the CIA's "Psychological Warfare Division." Bryan professed his "review" of the files was harmless and nothing "came of it."

One picture shows Bryan as a child being caught with his hand in the cookie jar and telling his mother he was putting cookies back, not taking them out. And while he disclaims his CIA work had any bearing on his involvement with NICAP, the curious fact remains that although Bryan has written hundreds of magazine articles and a number of books over the years,

not one single thing he ever wrote had the vaguest connection with UFOs, as though it was not an item of interest to him. Yet he served on NICAP's Board for over twenty years, the last ten years as Chairman, and was the only board member to display an active interest in NICAP's daily doings when Keyhoe was at the helm.

The incongruity is that Bryan supposedly held such strong opinions as to declare, "The UFOs are interplanetary devices...Information on UFOs has been officially withheld. This policy is dangerous and join up with Keyhoe, the man he respected and admired—and fired—yet as a writer he completely ignored the subject. This in the face of the fact whatever one's opinions on the subject are, it is clearly one of the most fascinating and important mysteries of our time.

The Windsor Story is a particularly revealing book, for in it neither Bryan nor Murphy hide their disdain for the Windsors and the whole scene around them; both writers seem to detest the trappings and pretense of royalty and their hangers-on. So what kept them coming back?

Well, the Duke's frequent guest and golfing buddy happened to be a newspaperman named Cyrus Sulzburger. Other frequent guests at the Windsors' Paris residence included the publisher of Paris Match, Jacques Prouvost, Pierre Lazareff, publisher of France-Soir and Le Journal Dimanche, plus other assorted publishers, writers and powerful and influential officials from Europe and America—just the sort of persons a couple of good psychological warfare agents would want to mingle with and attempt to influence.

Bryan wrote travel articles for National Review magazine in the early 1970s, whose editor, William F. Buckley, happens to have been a former covert CIA agent. Buckley served under E. Howard Hunt, the agent who trained under Bryan, at the CIA's Mexico City Station back in the early 1950s. An unabashed friend and admirer of Hunt, Buckley also refers to Bryan as "a brilliant writer," and that he may well be.

But Bryan's main brilliance seems to be his ability to lie and deceive. And, oh, what tangled webs he weaves.

007: LICENSE TO BE KILLED

When Korean Air Lines flight 007 was shot down over Soviet territory by Russian interceptors, Sept. 1, 1983, the horrible incident touched off a torrent of indignation and denouncement of the so-called "Evil Empire," most notably by President Ronald Reagan. The President, in fact, seemed more eager to bale propaganda hay than he was to find the real cause of the Korean plane straying off course or institute preventative measures that might avert such disasters in the future.

More recently, much speculation and conjecture has arisen about whether KAL 007 was on some sort of spying mission for the U.S. Government. Last year (1985), a British journalist wrote a book suggesting just such a scenario, pointing out the improbability of an airliner being flown so haphazardly, taking into account the crew's experience and the technical capabilities of the navigation equipment. The British book was shortly countered by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh's book, The Target Is Destroyed. Hersh, given guidance by the U.S. Intelligence community and access to vindicating information, came to the conclusion the fatal flight was not on an intelligence assignment. He was, however, equally magnanimous to the Russians, attributing the tragedy to mistakes and bureaucratic blunders.

While Hersh's book appears to have put the matter to rest, for the most part, the fact remains that missing from the entire equation are a couple of key items which might enable the public to make a more informed judgment about the extent of Soviet guilt and the possibility the flight's number, 007, was more than just a bizarre coincidence.

First and foremost is the fact the U.S. has been flying highly-secret STEALTH reconnaissance missions over foreign territory since the late 1970s. These STEALTH overflights employed reconfigured 737's—a passenger airliner body revised for military/intelligence use—to penetrate foreign airspace in order to intercept such communications as line-of-sight transmissions (microwave and VHF), which some countries do not scramble (encode) because of the point-to-point, non-radiating factors of the signals. The intelligence collected by the overflights could not otherwise be obtained, since the transmissions do not skip or carry far enough to be picked by satellite systems or listening posts.

Carrying crews of intercept operators from the Air Force Communications Agency (formerly the Air Force Security Service), a primary component of the National Security Agency (NSA), the STEALTH planes utilize electronic countermeasures*, as well as modifications of the aircraft's structure, to effect radar invisibility.

*Electronic countermeasures entail using sophisticated hardware and software to generate deceptive signals to enemy radar stations and interceptor aircraft.

Given the leakage within the intelligence community and its track record of being subject to deep penetrations by the KGB, especially the demonstrated vulnerability of NSA, it's quite possible the Russians had learned of the STEALTH probes and were sensitive to overflights by passenger-body aircraft. Therefore, even if the Soviets had recognized 007 as a passenger-type radar profile, it's likely their apprehensions would have been even greater.

But what sort of spy mission could 007 have been on? Certainly not photo reconnaissance, what with the availability of satellite surveillance and high- and low-altitude recon flights. Much of the speculation about a possible intelligence purpose has centered around some type of probe of Soviet defenses, something similar to the form of activity the NSA spyship Pueblo was engaged in when taken captive off North Korea in the late 1960s. One would have to question the feasibility of using a civilian airliner for such a dubious purpose, however, particularly when spy planes like the RC-135 can collect such data without a great deal of risk.

The answer to the puzzle may lie in a type of mission that is little known and so far not conjectured; a mission that would rule out the use of military aircraft because of the over-riding danger factor. To wit, an identifiable military/intelligence plane would be blasted out of the sky without hesitation, and, worse yet (from a pragmatic standpoint), without accomplishing its purpose.

That purpose, assuming 007 was on an intelligence assignment, would have been a code-breaking mission in behalf of NSA. It would have involved the aircraft flying a very carefully prescribed and timed course over enemy territory, allowing itself to be tracked by Soviet radar stations.

As the penetration was detected and progressed, the radar sites would transmit the aircraft's coordinates from one station to the next, on down the line, as it passed from range. NSA intercept bases (commonly called "listening posts") would monitor the communications, then compare the scrambled (encoded) coordinates to the known position of the airliner, a process which might yield a significant code break.

The procedure is much like knowing the answer before you know what the question is. That is, taking into account the range of Soviet radars, the radar ops' SOP and other factors, the encoded radar coordinates could be extrapolated and compared to the known coordinates of flight 007, yielding a solution something like: xrpzh=L137, or however the trackings are expressed.

In short, a pattern, even with today's high-grade random-keyed* codes, might be detected, leading, perhaps, to a computer-aided break of an entire code system.

*Random keying refers to the generation of encryption characters (letters and/or numbers or functions) based on a mathematical system with enough quasi-randomity and variants to make it extremely improbable the code keys (trigger-points) could ever be duplicated or detected. However, no code system could be completely random, or communications would be impossible. Therefore, there always is some sort of pattern, it's just that applying all the possible variants is usually a task beyond the scope or ambition of most intelligence organizations.

Would the NSA, the CIA and the hierarchy of the government have risked 269 lives merely for the opportunity to break a Russian code? One can only draw on past experiences, particularly the knowledge that nuclear war was risked in the past for an intelligence break-through that gave the U.S. a great advantage in a matter that had more to do with national pride than strategic importance. Had the operation failed or been detected, it could well have led to a nuclear holocaust.

The point is, if men are so callous in their disregard for human life as to place the entire planet in certain jeopardy, all for the sake of pride and prestige, what would stop them from dooming 269 people if it suited their purposes?

One final thought: It seems possible some sneaky agent could have tampered with KAL 007's navigation computer pre-sets, thereby making the pilots unwitting accomplices as well. Whatever the case, this 007 was no spy sanctioned to kill, it was a plane load of victims on a voyage to infinity.

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First off, I would like to thank all my new subscribers. Perhaps this newsletter is not quite what you're expecting, but I hope you find it informative and stimulating, if nothing else.

In the coming months, I shall address the Kennedy Assassination, as promised, as well as other current or past events about which I have something significant to contribute. Because most of my readership is comprised of non-UFOlogists, I will strive to make the journal more of interest to the general populace.

Thanks to you all for your kind words and support.

Your editor & friend;

W. Todd Zechel

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