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| Collection Name | EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY | FILE | Wit LOJ | hdrawer 8/23/2007 |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--|-----------------------------|
| File Folder | KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 (08/27/1981) | 08/26/19 | | A |
| Box Number | 9 | | YAI 6 | NAGIHARA |
| ID Doc Type | Document Description | No of Pages | The second day of the second d | Restrictions |
| 40910 CABLE | NORTH KOREAN MISSILE FIRING | 5 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40911 MEMO | GREGG TO COLSON, US RESPONSE | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40912 CABLE | 261525Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40924 REPORT | NORTH KOREA: AIR DEFENSE ACTIVITY | 3 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40928 RECEIPT | FOR 40929 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40929 MEMO | FOR THE RECORD, RE MISSILE FIRING | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| | | | | |

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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| KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 08/27/1981) | (08/26/19 | 981- FO | |
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| Document Description | No of Pages | the second s | Restrictions |
| ATTACHMENT FOR 40929 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 261227Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 261745Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 261745Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 261812Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 261620Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| | KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 08/27/1981) 9 Document Description ATTACHMENT FOR 40929 261227Z AUG 81 261745Z AUG 81 261745Z AUG 81 261812Z AUG 81 | KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 (08/26/19 9 Document Description No of Pages ATTACHMENT FOR 40929 1 261227Z AUG 81 2 261745Z AUG 81 2 261812Z AUG 81 1 | KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 (08/26/1981) FOI 9 YAI Document Description No of Pages ATTACHMENT FOR 40929 1 8/26/1981 261227Z AUG 81 2 8/26/1981 261745Z AUG 81 1 8/26/1981 261812Z AUG 81 1 8/26/1981 |

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| 40939 CABLE | 261233Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40940 MEMO | ALLEN TO THE PRESIDENT | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40941 MAP | KOREA | 1 | 9/1/1967 | B1 |
| 40942 NOTES | 261043Z HANDWRITTEN | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| 40943 CABLE | 260925Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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| 40911 MEMO GREGG TO COLSON, US RESPONSE | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |

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| KEYWORDS: KOREA NORTH | INTELLIGENCE | | |
| MILITARY POSTURE | | | |
| SUBJECT: US RESPONSE TO THE | SR-71 INCIDENT | | |
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| ACTION: FOR INFORMATION | DUE: | STATUS 1 | X FILES |
| FOR ACTION | FOR CONCURRE | INCE | FOR INFO |
| COLSON | | | SCHWEITZER |
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| 40912 CABLE 261525Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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AM-MISSILE 8-26 BULLETIN PRECEDE WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A HIGH-FLYING U.S. SR-71 "BLACKBIRD" RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WAS APPARENTLY FIRED AT BY A NORTH KOREAN MISSILE WEDNESDAY WHILE FLYING IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE, THE PENTAGON ANNOUNCED. THE U.S. PLANE LANDED SAFELY UNHARMED. UPI 08-26-81 07:34 PED 10

UP124

UP125

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AM-MISSILE MULTITAKES 8-26

URGENT

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A HIGH-FLYING U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS APPARENTLY FIRED AT BY A NORTH KOREAN MISSILE WEDNESDAY WHILE FLYING IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE BUT THE MISSILE MISSED BY SEVERAL MILES, THE PENTAGON SAID.

"THE INCIDENT POSED NO THREAT TO THE AIRCRAFT WHICH LANDED SAFELY," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ON WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, THE CREW OF A U.S. AIR FORCE SR-71 FLYING IN SOUTH KOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL RIRSPACE REPORTED SIGHTING A CONTRAIL AND SUBSEQUENT AIR BURST SEVERAL MILES DISTANT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ASKED IF THE INCIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN A MISSILE FIRING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "YES."

"IF A MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED, IT COULD HAVE ORIGINATED FROM ANY ONE OF A NUMBER OF MISSILE SITES IN NORTH KORER," HE SAID. MORE

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X X X SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SR-71, THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT AND WHICH CAN FLY AT THREE TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND, WAS ON A "ROUTINE MISSION."

ASKED HOW CLOSE THE AIRCRAFT WAS TO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE SEPARATING NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SR-71 WAS IN "SOUTH KOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE."

"AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC FLIGHT PATHS OF THIS AIRCRAFT," HE SAID.

MORE

UPI 08-26-81 07:44 PED

AP-21ST NEWSWATCH: THE NIGHT CAP

HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

THE PENTAGON TODAY REPORTED THAT A MISSILE -- APPARENTLY LAUNCHED FROM NORTH KOREA -- WAS FIRED AT A U-S AIR FORCE PLANE AS IT FLEW OVER SOUTH KOREA AND INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE. OFFICIALS SAY THE MISSILE MISSED THE S-R-71 RECONNAISSANCE JET BY SEVERAL MILES -- AND THAT THE CREW LANDED THE PLANE SAFELY.

THE PENTAGON IS NOT FLATLY ACCUSING NORTH KOREA OF SHOOTING AT THE RECONNAISSANCE JET, WHICH IT SAYS WAS ON A "ROUTINE MISSION" IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE. THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAID -- "IF A MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED, IT COULD HAVE ORIGINATED FROM ... A NUMBER OF MISSILE SITES IN NORTH KOREA." THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RARELY DISCUSSES ITS S-R-71 'BLACKBIRD' MISSIONS. BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT IN PAST YEARS THE PLANE HAS BEEN USED TO SPY ON CHINA AND COMMUNIST VIETNAM.

IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR EDWIN MEESE SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER INFORMED THE PRESIDENT OF THE INCIDENT WHEN THE TWO MEN MET TODAY. MEESE SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS "CONCERNED" ABOUT IT. BUT, MEESE SAID, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANALYSTS ARE STILL EVALUATING THE SITUATION. IT WAS JUST A WEEK AGO THAT TWO NAVY JETS WERE FIRED ON BY LIBYAN JETS DURING MANEUVERS OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND TWO LIBYAN JETS WERE SHOT DOWN.

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NISSILE-PLANE

BY FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A MISSILE APPARENTLY LAUNCHED FROM NORTH KOREA AT A U.S. AIR FORCE SPY PLANE MISSED THE HIGH-ALTITUDE JET BY SEVERAL MILES, THE PENTAGON SAID WEDNESDAY.

"THE CREW OF A U.S. AIR FORCE SR-71 FLYING IN SOUTH KOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE REPORTED SIGHTING A CONTRAIL AND SUBSEQUENT AIR BURST SEVERAL MILES DISTANT," THE PENTAGON STATEMENT SAID. "THE INCIDENT POSED NO THREAT TO THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH LANDED SAFELY."

THE STATEMENT DID NOT FLATLY ACCUSE THE NORTH KOREANS OF SHOOTING AT THE ''BLACKBIRD'' RECONNAISSANCE PLANE, BUT SAID, ''IF A MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED, IT COULD HAVE ORIGINATED FROM ANY ONE OF A NUMBER OF MISSILE SITES IN NORTH KOREA.''

THE SR-71, WHICH THE AIR FORCE CALLS ONE OF THE FASTEST AND HIGHEST-FLYING AIRCRAFT, TRAVELS MORE THAN 2,000 MPH AT ALTITUDES ABOVE 80,000. A SUCCESSOR TO THE U-2 SPY PLANE, IT CARRIES A CREW OF TWO.

THE PENTAGON SAID THE PLANE INVOLVED IN THE WEDNESDAY INCIDENT WAS ON A ''ROUTINE MISSION.''

THE PENTAGON REFUSED TO SAY HOW NEAR THE PLANE WAS TO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA OR TO NORTH KOREA ITSELF.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND THE AIR FORCE RARELY DISCUSS SR-71 OPERATIONS BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT THE PLANE HAS BEEN USED IN PAST YEARS TO SPY ON CHINA AND COMMUNIST VIETNAM. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN UNCONFIRMED REPORTS IT HAS BEEN USED TO PHOTOGRAPH NORTH KOREA.

THE PENTAGON SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND THAT NO OTHER PLANES WERE INVOLVED.

THE INCIDENT COMES A WEEK AFTER TWO U.S. NAVY F-14 JETS WERE FIRED UPON BY A PAIR OF LIBYAN JETS WHILE THE AMERICAN FORCES WERE CONDUCTING TRAINING MANEUVERS OFF THE LIBYAN COASTS. THE U.S. JETS SHOT DOWN THE TWO LIBYAN PLANES. AP-WX-03-26-31 2001EDT

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| 40924 REPORT NORTH KOREA: AIR DEFENSE ACTIVITY | 3 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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| 40928 RECEIPT FOR 40929 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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| 40933 | 3 GRAPH ATTACHMENT FOR 40929 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 | |
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| 40936 CABLE 261745Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |

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| <i>File Folder</i> KOREA, NORTH - MISSILE FIRING AT SR-71 (08/26/1981- 08/27/1981) | | | <i>FOIA</i> F05-023 YANAGIHJ | ARA |
| Box N 9 | Number | | 6 | |
| ID | Document Type Document Description | No of pages | Doc Date | Restric- tions |
| 4093 | 7 CABLE 261812Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
| | pove documents were not referred for declassification review at time o m of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)] | f process | ing | |
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| ID | Document Type Document Description | No of pages | Doc Date | Restric- tions |
| 40938 | CABLE 261620Z AUG 81 | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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| ID Document Type Document Description | No of pages | Doc Date | Restric- tions |
| 40939 CABLE 261233Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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| 40941 | MAP KOREA | 1 | 9/1/1967 | B1 |
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| 40942 | 2 NOTES | 1 | 8/26/1981 | B 1 | | |
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| 40943 | CABLE 260925Z AUG 81 | 2 | 8/26/1981 | B1 |
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August 27, 1981

APPROVED PUBLIC AFFAIRS STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On Wodnesday, August 26, the crew of a U.S. Air Force SR-71 flying in South Korean and international airspace reported sighting a contrail and subsequent air burst several miles distant. The incident posed no threat to the aircraft, which landed safely. As a matter of policy, we do not discuss the specific activities of this aircraft.

QI: What kind of mission was it on?

Al: Routine mission.

Q2: Now close was it to the DM2 or North Korea?

A2: As a matter of policy, we do not discuss the specific flight paths of this aircr

Q3: Is there any relationship to the recent Libyan incident?

A3: Any ensuer would be sheer speculation.

295

Q4: Could the incident have been a missile firing?

A4: Yes.

Q5: Where could the missile have come from?

A5: 'If a missile was launched, it could have originated from any one of a number of missile sites in North Kores.

Q6: Was this a new or unusual mission?

A6: No. Similar missions are flown periodically.

Q7: Have there been any similar incidents in the past?

A7: No.

Q8: Were there any other sircraft involved?

AS: No.

A9: What action has the United States Government taken?

A9: The matter is currently being evoluated.

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