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SUBJECT: The 1 May U-2 Incident and Powers' Fate

DATE OF INFO : May 1960 - Mid 1961

SOURCE : A reliable Soviet source (B) who was in an excellent position to acquire this information

Note: The following is an expansion of [redacted] of 30 November 1960. The informant of that report is the source of this one.

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ow transcript info

1. When the U-2 flew over the USSR on 1 May 1960, there were only two V-75 surface-to air missile battalions in the Sverdlovsk area. [SR/Report note: This statement is false; there were more than two according to aerial photography.] They were on alert because of the holiday. When they received word that a hostile aircraft was flying overhead, both battalions opened fire and 14 missiles were launched. No direct hits were made.

2. The U-2, which was already being followed by a MIG-19, did not fly directly over the position of the zone of fire of either V-75 battalion. [SR/Report note: Is this relevant?] Nevertheless, it was within the radius of explosion of one of the V-75 missiles.¹ As a result of this explosion, the U-2's tail and wing assembly were slightly damaged and the pilot, Powers, sustained a concussion.² While parachuting down, Powers blacked out several times, He was unconscious when he landed and when everything on his was seized. (According to DPD, this last sentence is not true.)

3/ Powers was brought to Moscow by plane, where he was met by KGB Chief Shelepin and an interpreter. They took him to Dzerzhinskiy Square, where he was fed and given medical treatment for his concussion. [SR/Report note: it was apparent from the trial that the KGB handled the case.]

4. There was dissatisfaction in military circles that Powers was not turned over to the General Staff, since his flight was considered a military intrusion and his plane had been downed by a military unit. The GRU did not, however, become involved in the case.

5. Source expressed the opinion in mid-1961 that Powers would never be released except in an exchange. He suggested that an exchange with GRU officer

Igor Melekh might have been possible. ~~SR~~/Report note: Melekh left the U.S. on 8 April 1961, prior to source's comment. ~~According~~ to DPD, the concept of an exchange was being discussed between US and Soviet authorities prior to source's comments.

1. Source Comment: Powers would have escaped if he had flown one or one and a half kilometers to the right of his flight path, not to the left.

2. Source Comment: The broken parts of the plane were not displayed at the Moscow exhibition.