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To Gen Carter

INFORMATION RE GOULDING PRESS RELEASE 24 JAN 68
REPUDIATING CDR BUCHER'S CONFESSION

Source: Lt Col Bruce Brown, USAF, Exec Officer to ASD(PA)

Facts: Press Release was made at approx 4:30 p.m.

Capt Stevens, USN, dictated the release to NSA at approximately 4:35 p.m. (according to Col Brown's recollection the release was given to the Press 5-10 minutes before NSA received it).

Col Brown recalls that Mr. Berger at State Department cleared the text with George Christian, White House Press Secretary, and, therefore, he believes the President made the decision to release.

Col Brown recalls that DOD was also to clear the release with CIA but does not know if this was done; if so, he does not know by whom or with whom.

Col Brown recalls asking ASD(PA) if he, Brown, should coordinate with CIA and was told, "no".

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Approved for release by NSA on 05-27-2014, Transparency Case# 63391

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Col Brown understood that [redacted] showed the statement to Mr. Nitze but does not think Mr. Nitze took any action.

Col Brown knows that Mr. Goulding, ASD(PA) took the release to Mr. McNamara's Office and when he returned, he informed Col Brown that the statement was going to be given to the Press.

As Goulding left to go to SecDef a little after 3 p.m., Brown recalls that he reminded the Assistant Secretary that the statement contained "representations that General Carter might make effort to stop". When he reminded Mr. Goulding that he didn't mean to argue with him but simply wanted to invite his attention to a couple of questionable references, Goulding's reply in effect indicated that the release had the blessings of the White House.

N.B. - Col Brown advised that the statement had been assembled throughout the day, Wednesday, 24 Jan 68, but the information re North Korean radar and Pueblo position was not inserted until about 3 p.m. after he, Col Brown, had returned with the data which he collected from BGen Steakley at approximately 2:40 p.m. During this exact time frame (2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.), Col Brown said that he would "testify" that while in BGen Steakley's office he overheard BGen Steakley in telecon say, "Pat, they're getting ready to release it." He said he eventually learned that "Pat" was General Carter. Col Brown said that he assumed that all three were on the same circuit and that General Carter knew what the release would say.