

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

USCIB: 13.5/101

25 March 1955

24

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Possible Compromise of COMINT Information.

1. U.S. Navy VRI aircraft BUHO 128441 flight 124/30 outbound from U.S. Naval Air Station, Patuxent, Maryland, to Lajes, Azores, crashed between the hours of 0403Z and 1152Z, 31 October 1954.

2. This aircraft was carrying 227 pounds of officer courier mail including eleven (11) packages of COMINT material. All officer courier material was located in a sealed compartment in the belly of the aircraft.

3. The last report heard from this aircraft was at 170403Z October. Its position at that time was given as 38-06N, 69-12W (above the Atlantic Ocean about 700 miles east of Washington).


4. Search and rescue operations were conducted during the periods 31 October - 3 November and 6 - 11 November. The search, said to be the most extensive ever conducted by the Navy, involved some 200 aircraft and 26 surface vessels and covered an area of 7 million square miles.

5. No trace of the wreckage has been found.

6. Accountability for the COMINT material aboard this aircraft has been lost. However, based on the above facts, it does not appear that there is any reasonable basis for a presumption that this material could have found its way into unauthorized hands.

7. It is therefore recommended that the above incident be considered as involving no compromise to the COMINT material aboard the aircraft.

8. The above facts and recommendation are submitted in accordance with Section V, CIBD #9, dated 4 February 1954.

  
RUFUS L. TAYLOR  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Executive Secretary, USCIB

USCIB: 13.5/101