

MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT,
Paris, May 1960

Background Paper

SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS OF FREE WORLD AREAS

Summary

Despite press speculation to the contrary there is no evidence of Soviet overflights of the North American continent. There are, however, indications that other Free World areas have been subjected to such Soviet overflights. (SECRET)

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(BEGIN SECRET)

By NORAD evaluation, there is no basis for any statement that any Soviet aircraft has intruded over the North American continent except in cases where prior arrangements have been made with appropriate governmental authorities. (END SECRET)

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

There have been the following reports published regarding overflights of other areas of the world:

Iran: On March 15, 1959, the Iranian Government protested to the USSR that during the period November 27, 1958 to February 26, 1959 Soviet aircraft had violated Iranian airspace on several occasions. The Soviet Union rejected the protest as unfounded.

Japan: Japanese Defense Agency sources on May 3, 1960, as quoted in the influential daily Yomiuri, stated that jet flights from Russian areas north of Hokkaido had been regularized. According to the report, Soviet jets began flying over the Japan Sea on reconnaissance missions off the coast of northern Japan and the Tokyo area in early

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Authority State Dept. Subject Guidelines
By JWS NLE Date 11/29/98

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1959. Defense Agency sources said weeks of radar observation have confirmed the fact that high-altitude flights of two or three large jet bombers from areas north of Hokkaido to the Tokyo Bay area had been made twice a week since early in 1960. The Defense Agency first learned of these high-altitude flights early in 1959 when the flights consisted of single planes and seldom came further south than the Sendai area. Agency sources added that the recent flights of jet bombers were flying deliberately nearer to, but carefully outside of, Japan's territorial air.

Pakistan: According to a Reuter's report, President Ayub told a London Daily Mail reporter in November 1959, that Soviets and Chinese had made some overflights over Pakistan to "pinpoint" US bases there. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

(BEGIN SECRET)

Turkey: In September 1958 Foreign Minister Zorlu acknowledged to our Charge in Ankara that Soviet aircraft often invade Turkish air space. Our Charge commented that he thought we could expect no support from the Turks on violation of Turkish air space.

NOTE: Preliminary reports from USAFE and PACAF indicate no record of penetrations in Europe or in the Far East other than occasional Soviet overflights of northern Hokkaido, generally evaluated as due to navigational error. (END SECRET)



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