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7 DEC 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: (~~Confidential~~) Air Defense Alert 1030 hours EST - 6 Dec 50

1. At 1030 hours EST, 6 December 1950, the Headquarters USAF Command Post was notified by the ConAC Command Post of an air raid warning alert via direct telephonic communications between Headquarters USAF and Headquarters ConAC. The message from the ConAC Command Post read as follows:

"Large number of unidentified aircraft approaching Northeastern U. S. at high altitude. Eastern Air Defense Command is taking action to dispatch interceptors. No reason to believe they are friendly."

2. Upon receipt of this information, the Headquarters USAF Command Post notified The White House, key military personnel and key personnel on the Secretaries level as provided by current directives.

3. The chronological list of events is as follows:

- 1030 - The air alert message received from ConAC.
- 1031 - The Executive Officer, Directorate of Plans was informed.
- 1032 - The White House was informed.
- 1032 - Colonel McHugh, who was present in the Command Post at this time, left the Command Post to notify the Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force.
- 1032 - Colonel Judy departed to advise the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and General Ramey.
- 1032 - Deputy Director of Plans notified.
- 1032 - The Director of Intelligence was notified.
- 1032 - Secretary of the Air Staff was notified.
- 1034 - Public Relations was notified.
- 1036 - Assistant for Programming was notified

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350.05 FLASH INTELLIGENCE

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1038 - Capt Tiernan called ConAC Command Post to determine latest status of the alert. ConAC advised that -

"Station #1 had a radar plot of 200 degrees heading and also three phase and three tracks out of Station #50. Six (6) in one flight - undetermined number in other two flights and no altitude determined."

1040 - Gen Whitehead called and supplemented the ConAC message as follows:

"estimate of 40 aircraft at 32,000 feet, northeast of Limestone, heading 200 degrees."

1040 - The Command Post notified the Office of the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, Navy Duty Officer, CNO, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel of the alert and its present status.

1042 - The Assistant for Atomic Energy was notified.

1045 - The Duty Officer of JCS, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel and the Duty Representative of CIA were notified.

1050 - Gen Landry called and stated the President had been notified of the alert. Gen Landry further informed the Command Post that no information would be given out from The White House and that all calls would be referred to the Department of the Air Force. He requested that the Department of Defense be notified of this arrangement. (This action was completed by memorandum at about 1120 hours).

1055 - The Department of Defense and Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, were notified that The White House was releasing no information, but referring all matters to the Department of the Air Force.

1100 - The White House was advised of present status of the alert.

1102 - Director of Communications was notified.

1103 - Director of Requirements was notified.

1104 - Gen Landry called to inquire as to speed, type of aircraft, etc.

1105 - ConAC advised the Command Post that -

"original tracks (40) had faded out. They have one (1) track tentatively identified as C-47 flight on ATC clearance from Limestone to Otis AF Base. Fighters being vectored to identify aircraft and/or original blips."

1105 - Director of Manpower and Organization notified.

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- 1106 - Current status of alert passed to The White House.
- 1109 - Gen Ramay informed of 1106 ConAC message.
- 1120 - Call to ConAC requesting they notify us of any change in alert or additional information.
- 1122 - Lt Col Lazar, GS, Army, notified and given latest information.
- 1125 - Admiral O'Regan, OPS 80, Navy, called and given latest information.
- 1126 - Gen Landry called requesting whereabouts of Gen Vandenberg. Information given by Col Judy that he was at the JCS meeting.
- 1130 - Capt Grantham, USN, from The White House called for latest information.
- 1131 - Col Lazar, Army, requested where Station #50 is - information given that ConAC held that information.
- 1138 - Per instructions of Col Judy, Hq Command Post called ConAC for additional information in order that proper offices may be advised. Talked to Maj Wells and he stated that no additional information was available except that

"the interception of the C-47 had been completed and it was identified as a C-47 out of Limestone; ConAC was still on alert status and it would be three (3) hours before the alert is called off, as a precautionary measure."

Col Judy instructed Maj Wells that this procedure was not advisable since the White House and other key personnel had been notified of the status of the alert and that some decision had to be rendered immediately. Col Judy instructed Maj Wells to get necessary decision from Gen Whitehead or other persons in Hqs ConAC.

- 1144 - Civil Defense Administration requested verification of authenticity of alert message received and verification was given.
- 1149 - Present status of the alert (1138) passed to Gen Landon and Gen Smith by Col Winkle.
- 1158 - Gen Landry requested Col Judy to call him.
- 1202 - Gen Everest contacted Col Israel, ConAC, and informed him that in light of present information he was going to notify the White House that the alert cancelled in the Washington area but ConAC could continue it as long as they deemed necessary.

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1210 - Col Judy passed the following message to Gen Landry at The White House:

"ConAC has completed identification - identified airplane in area. Original blips on radar screen faded out and cannot now be verified. Positive identification and interception has been made on a C-47. Based on this, we will definitely cancel the alert as far as this circuit is concerned here. ConAC will continue increased surveillance."

1212 - Message relayed to Gen Landon by Col Judy:

"Washington alert cancelled. Intercept complete on positive radar identification turned out to be a C-47. For information, EAD net is operating at a stepped-up rate for next 3 hours. General Landry, The White House, notified at 1210 that the alert is off."

1214 - In accordance with Gen Bradley's instruction at JCS meeting, Col Judy contacted Mr. Simmons for Gen Bradley at The White House that interception identified plane as friendly and alert is cancelled. Continued stepped up surveillance being maintained.

1220 - Col Judy contacted Gen Bradley and reported the action taken.

1316 - Gen Roney directed that Headquarters SAC, DCS/Operations be notified that -

"the ConAC alert had been cancelled and that further action was being taken to determine the cause of the alert. Col Winkle informed Col Large at SAC Headquarters."

1328 - Adm O'Regan notified that alert is cancelled.

4. Upon completion of telephone conversation between General Everest and Col Israel, ConAC, it was determined that all agencies should be informed that the alert is cancelled. The following agencies were informed at times indicated:

- a. Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations (Gen Everest was present in the Command Post)
- b. Vice Chief of Staff - 1212 - Col Marshall
- c. Chief of Staff - 1212 - Lt Col Sherrill
- d. Secretary of the Air Force - 1213 - Col Steele

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- e. Secretary of the Air Staff - 1218 - Col Maddux
- f. Director of Operations - 1225 - Maj Gen Ramey
- g. Director of Intelligence - 1226 - Maj Guinn
- h. Director of Public Relations - 1227 - Capt Schmelz
- i. Assistant for Programming - 1228 - Maj Gen Todd
- j. Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel - 1229 Col Odom
- k. Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel - 1230 - Col Martin
- l. Deputy Chief of Staff, Development - 1225 - Gen Yates
- m. Director of Requirements - 1226 - Gen Brandt's Executive Officer
- n. Director of Communications - 1227 - Gen Farman's Secretary
- o. Assistant for Atomic Energy - 1228 - Maj Gen Wilson
- p. Director of Manpower and Organisation - 1229 - Gen Lynch's Secretary
- q. Assistant for Operations Analysis - 1230 - Mr. Weatley

5. All action related to this matter was completed at 1230 hours in the Hq USAF Command Post.

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