

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action

FROM : MADRID

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ACTION : SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 1226

Info

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MARCH 18

DEPTTEL 1159

LIMDIS

COUNTRY TEAM MESSAGE.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PREPARED CONTINGENCY STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED AFTER COORDINATION AND COMPLETION OF SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS.

QUOTE THE FOURTH AND FINAL WEAPON FROM THE JANUARY 17 CRASH NEAR PALOMARES SPAIN HAS BEEN RECOVERED TODAY AND IS ENROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME. THE CASING WAS INTACT AND NO RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY INTO THE COASTAL WATERS HAS OCCURRED. THE WEAPON WAS LOCATED ON MARCH 16 IN 2500 FEET OF WATER, APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES OFF SHORE BY THE SUBMERSIBLE ALVIN. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THAT TIME TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE OBJECT AS THE MISSING WEAPON. THE RECOVERY OF THIS WEAPON BRINGS TO A CLOSE THE SEARCH PHASE OF THE OPERATION. ALL WRECHAGE FRAGMENTS AND ASSOCIATED AIRCRAFT MATERIAL OF INTEREST TO THE US HAVE NOW BEEN LOCATED AND RECOVERED. UNQUOTE.

POSSIBLE ADDITION TO STATEMENT ASSURING RECOVERY IS MADE AFTER DRUMS HAVE BEEN LOADED ABOARD SHIP.

QUOTE THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF CONTAMINATED SOIL AND VEGETATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THESE MATERIALS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED IN STEEL DRUMS ABOARD A UNITED STATES VESSEL AND WILL BE BURIED IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DISPOSAL SITE NEAR AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE AMERICAN ENCAMPMENT NEAR PALOMARES IS BEING DISMANTLED AND THE PERSONNEL RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL DUTY STATION. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE SPANISH PEOPLE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THIS TASK. I BELIEVE OUR GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO LEAVE THE PALOMARES AREA AS IT WAS BEFORE. UNQUOTE. DUKE
BT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, USIA 1:25 P.M., 3-18-66.
ADVANCE DELIVERY TO S/S-O AT 1:10 P.M., 3-18-66.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-142

By inf, NARA, Date 8-15-88

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MARCH 18, 1966, 12:57 PM

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