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By BKA NARA Date 8/9

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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

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GSS SENS.-ARA

September 17, 1974

**FILE**  
*Under Recon.*

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~~SECRET/NOBIS/STEVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary  
FROM: P - Joseph J. Sisco  
SUBJECT: Reinstitution of Airborne Reconnaissance of Cuba

In the attached memorandum, Bill Colby recommends that we undertake an SR-71 overflight of Cuba after the expected arrival of Soviet naval units on or about 22 September. I agree with Colby.

In the first place, as Colby maintains, the visit of Soviet ships provides us with a pretext that has been palatable to the Cubans in the past. We should take advantage of it, especially since once we undertake a dialogue with the Cubans, overflights will become more difficult. Secondly, an overflight mission at this time would comprise a signal of an appropriately negative degree that, with respect to U.S.-Cuban bilateral relations, Castro has still to settle with us.

Accordingly, I suggest that we accept Colby's recommendation to institute an SR-71 overflight of Cuba after the arrival of the Soviet naval vessels.

Attachment:

Colby memorandum

Agree  
AT

SECRET/NODIS