May 16, 1960
Memorandum for International Operations Division Chief, 'RFE Guidance Line on U-2 Incident'

Citation:

Summary:
An IOD officer responsible for RFE reports to Cord Meyer on differences between the FEC/RFE leadership in New York and the RFE management in Munich on broadcast coverage of the U-2 incident and endorses the “calm and reasoned” approach of the Munich management.

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English

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MEMORANDUM FOR:  Chief, International Organizations Division

SUBJECT:  RFE Guidance Line on U-2 Incident

1. You will recall that I told you that Nathan and Donning took an unnecessarily hard line in the initial days of the U-2 incident. These were difficult days at best for all of us.

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2. In the meantime, Munich apparently took a calm and reasoned approach to its coverage. Although I have heard nothing on this directly from RFE New York, Bernie Harrow told me on 13 May that Munich had come in with a strong dissent from Nathan's early hard line guidance. I attach a copy of the Munich message which makes a lot of sense and is reassuring to me. Among other things, the message originated with Konak and Miller in Pam's absence and indicates that Miller is shaping up very well indeed. While I have not seen the Polish New York desk commentary referred to in this message, I assume that it is one of Wiersznik's and is one more proof to me that international commentary on such subjects should originate in Munich.

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   Although, in addition, it is an added bonus that Nathan is recanting slowly but surely his policy of 'disagreements with Archie are apparently becoming widely known within the organization.'

3. I talked to Archie by phone Friday night about this problem, among others, and he said that he felt the only ultimate solution to this continuing open sore is getting rid of such people as Nathan who simply cannot adapt to the less blatant line necessary for credibility in such a situation. In this connection, I was quite interested to see Eric Hazelhoff's reference to Col. Reuben Nathan whose policy disagreements with Archie are apparently becoming widely known within the organization.

Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)