

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED with deletions	
Authority	NLE 2009-58
By	MMK NLDDE Date 7/9/12



August 20, 1955.

Mr. President:

Following message received at White House and delivered to General Persons. At my request last night, copy also sent to Secretary of State, who told Mr. Minnich that he would work on draft of answer Monday.

From Anthony Eden.

"Dear Mr. President:

I have just been told about an operation which your Air Force have been planning for some time and propose to carry out from November 1 onwards.

I am greatly impressed by the ingenuity of this project and the success attained in the experimental trials. I do not doubt that it might yield valuable results. And, as you know, I am always anxious that we should work together in these matters.

I am, however, concerned about the timing. If anything goes wrong, the real purpose of the operation is likely to be known. Our action will then be contrasted with what we said at Geneva. In particular, it will be related to your own offer of reciprocal facilities for aerial reconnaissance. And this may happen at the very moment when our Foreign Ministers are meeting in Geneva. It would not be difficult for the Russians, if they chose, to make effective use of this - and I fear that we might not emerge from it with any great credit.

I do not know whether you were aware of the intention to start this operation on November 1. I should, however, be grateful if you would consider its timing, in the light of what I have said. I hope that you will agree that it would be wiser to postpone it for the present.

Yours ever,

Anthony"

Followup message says that code name of operation is "Grayback."

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a.

(C)

Dear Mr. President,

I have just been told about an operation which your Air Force have been planning for some time and propose to carry out from November 1 onwards. [REDACTED]

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(sgd) ANTHONY