

11 March 1993

DAPE-ZB-TFR-H

SUBJECT: Fact Sheet, 1 July 1960 Shootdown

1. On 1 July 1960, at approximately 1503 hours local, the Soviets shot down an RB-47 over the Barents sea, 50 miles north of Cape Svyatoi Nos.

2. Captains McCone and Olmstead were captured and returned alive. Major Palm's body was returned. Captains Posa, Goforth, and Phillips never returned. The Russians say they had Posa's body in Severomorsk, but can't find it now.

3. Where are Posa, Goforth, and Phillips?

a. U.S. archival evidence shows:

(1) The aircraft was in international airspace and was fired on without warning. Crew debriefings indicate that the RB-47 did not fire first, but that a MiG appeared off the wingtips, paced the plane, and then shot it down.

(2) There are no sure sightings of other survivors by McCone and Olmstead.

b. Russian archival evidence shows that on 13 October 1961, Captain Polyashov of the trawler Yalta, out of Murmansk, was fishing at 69-12 North, 40-26 West. He recovered debris from an Air Force plane and the body of Captain Eugene Posa. The debris and body were to be taken to Severomorsk on 17 October 1961.

4. Unresolved issues.

a. Where is Posa?

b. Did the Murmansk fishing fleet report on any other debris, remains, or survivors?

c. The Northern Fleet or Maritime Border Guards participated in search operations. How large was the search effort, and where exactly was it conducted?

d. What other resources will improve our understanding of this incident?

(1) The Commission should interview members of the Murmansk civil fleet for information on the search and rescue effort.

(2) The Commission should access the Northern Fleet archives and Border Guard archives for details of the search, as well as interview PVO representatives who were involved in the shootdown and who may have had comprehensive knowledge of the incident.

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SUBJECT: 10 September 1956 RB-50 loss, Sea of Japan

1. On 10 September 1956, an RB-50 took off into a typhoon and was never heard from again. The U.S. Government officially carries this as a Cold War loss.
2. The U.S. Government asked for information from the Soviets on 13 October 1956.