

28 Dec 72



UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Statement Concerning Spectre 17

TO: 16 SOS OPS

Classification canceled (changed to **UNCLASSIFIED**)
by authority of 5200.F.R. 1-201
by Glenn Becker 31 Dec 74 16 SOS OPS

FROM: ALFRED J. GRESKO, MAJOR USAF
Instructor FCO, Spectre 07

Our crew was on the way to the FRAG AREA when we heard on the air that Spectre 17 had taken a hit and was on its way home . We continued on toward our FRAG AREA for awhile, then was directed by Moonbeam to escort Spectre 17 to homeplate . We were working an intercept with Spectre 17 and monitoring the radios. Lion Control had both radar and radio contact with 17 . I heard that Spectre 17 was at 8.5 thousand feet and had a fuel leak at some three thousand lbs per minute also that there was a fuel leak inside the cargo compartment . The pilot had declared an emergency and was getting landing instructions. Spectre 17 also mentioned a hydraulic problem. At approximately 25 miles from 17 we heard Lion Control say that it had lost both radar and radio contact . We heard nothing indicating 17 was going down , that is from the aircraft itself .We tried reaching them but to no avail . Another aircraft said they saw it crash . Our pilot thought he saw an explosion , but we were a little far out to be certain . We arrived at the scene within five minutes - heard two "beepers" and assumed On-Scene Command of all SAR operations. We searched for possible strobe lights and listened up for "beepers" and radio contact. We aided in the rescue of the two survivors . The two survivors indicated at that time that the left wing was damaged from the hit and they thought it had broken off , and the aircraft exploded literally ejecting them from it due to their close proximity to the ramp opening. The next aircraft to replace us was Spectre 16 , they assumed SAR On-Scene Command and were briefed accordingly.

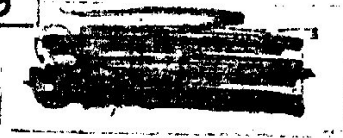
My conclusions concerning the fate of the "trapped" crewmembers are very pessimistic. The hope that always exist in an situation like this, I find is minimal.

Alfred J. Gresko

ALFRED J. GRESKO
MAJOR USAF

CLASSIFIED BY 16 SOS OPS OFF
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
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DOWNGRADE TO:
SECRET ON NA
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