

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT OF EVENTS CONCERNING SPECTRE 17

At approximately 1906 hours, 21 Dec 72, we had just crossed the fence when my flight engineer told me Spec 17 had taken a hit. He told me to listen to UHF #2 radio. I found out that they were losing fuel rapidly much of it into the cargo compartment. A few moments later they reported loss of all hydraulic power. Moonbeam directed us to proceed ASAP to intercept their flight path and escort them home. At around 1915 or 1920, after numerous attempts at radio contact, someone reported losing radar contact with Spec 17. Proceeding and locating the crash site, we orbited and searched for almost four hours, acting as on-scene commander for the SAR effort. We established radio contact with Spec 17I and 17J, pinpointed their location and assisted in their rescue. We searched the main crash site and out in a circle of maybe ten miles radius, but located nothing significant or anymore beepers or beacons. There were numerous small fires in addition to the main large fire. Secondary explosions continued for over two hours and the main fire was still burning when we left, approximately four hours after the crash.

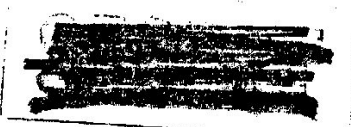
James D. Graves
JAMES D. GRAVES, TSgt, USAF
Aerial Gunner, 16th SOS

Classification canceled (changed to **UNCLASSIFIED**)
by authority of 5200.1-R, 1-401
by *James D. Graves 31 Dec 74* *16 Jan 75*

CLASSIFIED BY 16 SOS OPS OFF
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1980

DOWNGRADE TO:
SECRETION NA
CONFIDENTIAL ON 31 Dec 77
DECLASSIFY ON 31 Dec 80
CLASSIFIED BY 16 SOS OPS OFF

UNCLASSIFIED



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