

United States Note to the U.S.S.R., May 6, 1960
(Dept. of State Bulletin, May 23, 1960, p. 818.)

The Embassy of the United States of America by instruction of its Government has the honor to state the following:

"The United States Government has noted the statement of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, N. S. Khrushchev, in his speech before the Supreme Soviet on May 5, that a foreign aircraft crossed the border of the Soviet Union on May 1, and that on orders of the Soviet Government, this aircraft was shot down. In this same statement it was said that investigation showed that it was a United States plane.

"As already announced on May 3, a United States National Aeronautical Space Agency unarmed weather research plane based at Adana, Turkey, and piloted by a civilian American has been missing since May 1. The name of the American civilian pilot is Francis Gary Powers, born on August 17, 1929, in Jenkins, Kentucky.

"In the light of the above, the United States Government requests the Soviet Government to provide it with full facts of the Soviet investigation of this incident and to inform it of the fate of the pilot."

Soviet Note to the United States, May 10, 1960

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considers it necessary to state the following to the Government of the United States of America.

"On May 1 of this year, at 5 hour 36 minutes, Moscow time, a military aircraft violated the boundary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and intruded across the borders of the Soviet Union.... The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics naturally could not leave unpunished such a flagrant violation of Soviet state boundaries. When the intentions of the violating aircraft became apparent, it was shot down by Soviet rocket troops in the area of Sverdlovsk.

"Upon examination by experts of all data... it was incontrovertibly established that the intruder aircraft belonged to the United States of America, was permanently based in Turkey and was sent through Pakistan into the Soviet Union with hostile purposes.... Military intelligence activities of one nation by means of intrusion of its aircraft into the area of another country can hardly be called a method for improving relations and strengthening trust....

"It is self-evident that the Soviet Government is compelled... to give strict orders to its armed forces to take all necessary measures against violation of Soviet boundaries by foreign aviation. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics regretfully states that, while it undertakes everything possible for normalization and improvement of the international situation, the Government of the United States of America follows a different path...."

News Conference Statement by President Eisenhower, May 11, 1960

I have made some notes from which I want to talk to you about this U-2 incident...

"First point is this: the need for intelligence-gathering activities. No one wants another Pearl Harbor. This means that we must have knowledge of military forces and preparations around the world, especially those capable of massive surprise attack. Secrecy in the Soviet Union makes this essential. In most of the world no large-scale attack could be prepared in secret. But in the Soviet Union there is a fetish of secrecy and concealment. This is a major cause of international tension and uneasiness today. Our deterrent must never be placed in jeopardy. The safety of the whole free world demands this....

"My second point: the nature of intelligence-gathering activities. These have a special and secret character. We do not use our Army, Navy, or Air Force for this purpose....

"Third point: How should we view all of this activity? It is a distasteful but vital necessity.... This was the reason for my open-skies proposal in 1955, which I was ready instantly to put into effect, to permit aerial observation over the United States and the Soviet Union, which would assure that no surprise attack was being prepared against anyone. I shall bring up the open-skies proposal again in Paris, since it is a means of ending concealment and suspicion."

From: *The U-2 Incident: 1960*; <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/u2.htm#stnt3>
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① What happened on May 1, 1960?

② How did the Soviets react?

③ How did the U.S. govt. react?

④ What do these documents tell us about the ~~the~~ relationship of the US + USSR in 1960?