

Fate of '58 U-2 remains unknown

United Press International
WASHINGTON — In 1958, a CIA spy plane with at least eight persons aboard went down in Soviet territory. The passengers' fate remains a U.S. government secret.

Secret congressional transcripts reveal that the incident occurred three years before American Francis Gary Powers was shot down in his U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union.

Senate historian Don Ritchie said Sunday that if Powers' plane had not been shot down it is unlikely Congress would have ever been told about the first plane.

He said the Powers' incident prompted the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to question CIA Director Allen Dulles in May, 1960 — 30 days after Powers was captured — about intelligence-gathering efforts in the Soviet Union.

The previously classified transcript was released Saturday. The State Department and the CIA declined comment.

The transcript shows that Dulles told the senators the first plane went down with eight or nine crew members. A committee spokesman said what the government knows about the fate of the crew remains classified.

Ritchie, who edited the trans-

cript, said committee members learned of the incident when pressing Dulles about the Powers' case, asking whether it was the first such incident.

"He said, 'No, a couple of years ago we had a plane go down with eight or nine civilians and we don't know what happened to them. We're still negotiating about it,'" Ritchie said, paraphrasing Dulles.

"He was vague about it, so it sounded like he had no idea whether they were alive or dead," Ritchie said. "Dulles didn't profess to know how the plane went down, whether it had mechanical malfunctions or whatever."

Former Arkansas Sen. J. William Fulbright, who was chairman of the committee in 1960, said he could not recall the incident.

"They (CIA) didn't like to tell Congress anything they didn't have to," Fulbright said. "I was too naive. I believed anything they told me. It took me a while to get over that."

Dulles also revealed the CIA flew several hundred spy missions over the Soviet Union, and that American military planes also were flying over Soviet territory before the U-2 flights began in 1956.

After Powers was shot down, touching off an international in-

cident that cooled relations between the two superpowers, Defense Secretary Thomas Gates told the committee the military flights were "more of a border, a periphery nature than a complete deep penetration type of flight."

Dulles, pressed by senators on the purpose of the ill-fated U-2 flight, said the flights were aimed at collecting information on Soviet bombers, missiles, submarines, atomic energy programs, and the Soviet air defense system.

Later, in a letter to Fulbright, Dulles said only that, "Each and every flight had certain precise intelligence objectives, generally based on collateral information as to vitally important targets."

In response to questions about the timing of the Powers flight, Dulles said weather conditions — not political considerations — were the primary determining factor in scheduling flights.

When Powers' U-2 was downed, U.S. officials first assumed he had been killed. As part of a pre-arranged cover story, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the aircraft had strayed off course while on a weather flight.

Powers eventually was released in an exchange of prisoners.

Priest, pets give kids God's word together

United Press International
BALTIMORE — A skunk in the sanctuary, a pony near the pulpit and a piglet in the priest's arms. It's all part of the Rev. Rick Frechette's attempts to interest children in the church.

"Animals have a very human appeal, especially to children. After you have the kids' attention, then you can try to get the spiritual message across," said Frechette, 29, who has brought sheep, doves, dogs, rabbits, raccoons and even a hermit crab into St. Joseph's Monastery Church for his weekly children's mass.

"For children, it's what is in front of them that's real," Frechette said. "We've been very careful not to turn it into a circus. We know the animals are a gimmick and it's not blown out of proportion to other parts of the mass, which are done with due honor and respect."

The Roman Catholic priest,

who keeps a white dove on a perch near the altar, said he does not use animals that would make a distraction or disrupt the mass.

"I use animals at mass for the same reason that Walt Disney uses them — they are part of a child's world."

Even a piglet that Frechette helped deliver on his cousin's farm in New England was brought in to serve as an illustration for the Sunday children's message.

"The pig and the story of its birth appealed to the littlest children as well as their parents. After showing them Emily (the pig), I told them how priests also act as 'midwives' to bring parishioners into deeper faith — we are not essential, but we can help a lot," he said.

Frechette estimates that about 300 of the 1,100 people who come to the four services held at St. Joseph's each Sunday attend

the children's mass.

"I'd say only about a third of the people there are children. A lot of people without youngsters just come because they enjoy that type of worship."

The priest, who is leaving the parish soon to study Spanish in Mexico and then assume responsibilities in a parish in New York, has kept a menagerie of animals during his three and one-half year tenure at St. Joseph's.

His pets included a Dalmatian that he taught to bow at the altar, a Labrador retriever that would bark along with the Sunday hymns and a pink dove, chosen because it bore the traditional color of Lent.

Once a youngster presented Frechette with a hermit crab captured on a trip to the beach. He promptly christened the crab Anthony after the father of monasticism, who went off and lived in the desert for 25 years.

Today's Almanac

United Press International
Today is Tuesday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 1982 with 24 to follow.

This is Pearl Harbor Day. The moon is in its last quarter. The morning stars are Saturn and Jupiter.

The evening stars are Mercury, Venus and Mars. Those born on this date are

under the sign of Sagittarius.

On this date in history: In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1931, President Herbert Hoover refused to see a group of so-called "hunger marchers" at the White House.

In 1941, Japan launched a sneak attack on the United

States at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, killing 2,400 people and sinking America's most powerful battleships, catapulting the United States into World War II.

A thought for the day: Commenting on U.S. entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much."

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