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BISSELL

BISSELL, RICHARD M., JR. (OH-382) 37 pages Open

Consultant to the Administrator, Mutual Security Administration, 1953; Special Assistant to the Director, 1959-62, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Changes in Mutual Security Administration at beginning of Eisenhower Administration. Discusses at length the origins, development and organization of U-2 program; CIA relationship with the Air Force; personnel management problems; role of Technological Capabilities Panel of President's Science Advisory Committee in promoting use of over flights as an intelligence method; President Eisenhower's policies on approving and disapproving U-2 missions; timing of Francis Gary Powers' flight close to the Paris summit conference. Explains why the United States government was concerned about Guatemala in 1954. Discusses CIA support of a rebellion against Sukarno in Indonesia and the use of U-2 missions in this area. Discusses clandestine operations, the Church Committee report, and President Eisenhower's desire to get rid of Patrice Lumumba; CIA control over activities. Comments on Allen Dulles' role in planning U-2 operations. Explains role of 5412 Committee. Discusses the planning of the Bay of Pigs operation against Fidel Castro. Comments on Allen Dulles as an administrator.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview by Thomas F. Soapes, November 9, 1976]