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METHODS OF SEARCH

... was full search party strength, line abreast, sweeping across
... stretched out to twenty foot separation between troops. When
... large debris items on ground surface, this was acceptable.

... cover impact point was located in a line with #2 and #3 impact points, lines
... brought into enforced finger-tip to finger-tip proximity. Toilet paper was used to
... line flanks for next sweep.

This search formation was formalized by organizing flights of 8 men into teams of 100.
Flanks were then marked with cord and search areas defined on compass headings.

* As of ^{2 MIL}~~25 Feb~~, helicopters have provided ^{162:50}~~119+57~~ hours of search effort in ¹¹⁸⁴~~462~~ sorties,
covering an area greater than this mosaic depicts, in addition to logistical support to
and from San Javier.

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THEORIES INFLUENCING SEARCH AREAS

- * Original search activity was premised on #4 weapon being on the surface or having created an easily identifiable crater.
- * Upon location of #4 cover plate impact point, the possibility of burial of #4 secondary generated close search for craters and search of mountains north of river bed.
- * Mr. Hoagland, Sandia Corp, then advance theory that #4 secondary might be west of #2 site on a line with #3, and search was centered in this area.
- * The North American Gamma Detection search offered possibilities in areas west and south of site #2 and three days were spent searching this area.
- * The SAT study gave high probability to a 10,000 ft circle centered 5700 ft due west of site #2. This area was swept three times in addition to previous sweeps already made of much of this area.
- * All other areas not directly influenced by such theories will have been searched to the point that no areas have been covered less than four times and many areas as much as seven or more times by 4 March.

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SEARCH OF CRATERS, MINES AND WELLS

- * When possibility of #4 weapon burying itself became a consideration, emphasis was given to locating and evaluating all soil depressions.
- * Simultaneously Dr. Evans and EOD Specialists began probing craters and soil depressions.
- * Sandia and AEC personnel also work on probes and evaluation of wells and mines. Bureau of Mines expert arrived 24 Feb to assist.
- * Drop tests were conducted at White Sands to better define crater description. (See attached photographs) Search personnel thoroughly briefed 19 Feb on description of crater.
- * As of 25 Feb, ^{1 mine} 16⁹ soil depressions (^{11⁸} craters, ^{7⁰} mine shafts, ^{2⁹} wells and one reservoir) had been located and plotted. ^{ALL} 107 of these (^{84⁹} craters, ^{9⁰} mine shafts, ^{13⁰} wells and the reservoir) had been eliminated from consideration and the evaluation teams from Sandia, Los Alamos, and the Bureau of Mines are checking out others each day. (Attached list identifies total group)

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SANDIA SUPPORT

* Sandia Corp has provided technical advisers and systems analysts to this operation from the start as have Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories and AEC.

* Mr. R.C. Haydon, Aerodynamics Dept at Sandia headed the Systems Analysis Team which prepared the comprehensive study of the aircraft accident, the probable release point of the weapons, and the probable impact point of #11 weapon based on different assumptions.

* Mr. Sam Moore, the Manager of Weapons Analysis at Sandia and the man who designed the MK 28 is presently on site. Mr. Moore postulates that the whole weapon fell into the sea, based upon:

1. Solution #3 in SAT Study.
2. #11 weapon being struck in mid-air by heavy aircraft debris which displaced tail plate and released chute but did not cause low order detonation.
3. Contamination of aircraft debris is not germane to disappearance of #11 weapon.
4. Thorough search of area has failed to produce a single part that could be related to #11 weapon aside from cover plate.
5. An appropriate assembly was observed to descend and splashed into the sea.

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Distribution:

M00659A Elva Barfield, FOIA Officer/OPA; DOE/AL

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