Dear ....:

I believe the incident of the U-2 plane points up certain significant facts which have too long been overlooked, forgotten or ignored.

The first fact is that our constant effort to cooperate with the Soviet Union on policies to avoid surprise attacks, on open skies, on nuclear inspection, and to dissipate fears and tensions have been generally rejected.

The second fact is that in 1947 Congress passed the National Security Act creating the Central Intelligence Agency with definite functions in the field of intelligence, reconnaissance and the development of information vital to our security and survival.

The U-2 operations were, therefore, in line with our security policies and certainly were not unknown to the Soviet Union. For years we have had to deal with Soviet espionage in this country. The work of the C.I.A., the F.B.I., the Internal Security Committee of the Senate and the Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives speaks most eloquently on that point.

As to the summit conference, I believe Mr. Khrushchev's actions were a clear indication that he came to Paris with plans to scuttle the conference and used the plane incident as an excuse and not a reason for breaking up the meeting. I applaud the President for the dignity and restraint with which he conducted himself and as you have noted, his performance has won widespread approval throughout the free world.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen