

To give to each other a complete blueprint of our military establishments, from beginning to end, from one end of our countries to the other; lay out the establishments and provide the blueprints to each other.

Next, to provide within our countries facilities for aerial photography to the other country -- we to provide you the facilities within our country, ample facilities for aerial reconnaissance, where you can make all the pictures you choose and take them to your own country to study; you to provide exactly the same facilities for us and we to make these examinations, and by this step to convince the world that we are providing as between ourselves against the possibility of great surprise attack, thus lessening danger and relaxing tensions.

Likewise we will make more easily attainable a comprehensive and effective system of inspection and disarmament, because what I propose, I assure you, would be but a beginning.

The effect was electric. The British and French leaders immediately pledged themselves to respect and join such an overflight regime. The Soviet delegation promised to study the idea. It quickly became obvious, however, that the Soviet leadership was wary of the concept. At one point Khrushchev complained that it was "nothing more than a bald espionage plot against the USSR". By the time he left Geneva, Eisenhower was convinced that the Soviets would not accept the proposal, although talks did continue on the subject for some years.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>The above account is drawn from Rostow, W.W. Open Skies: Eisenhower's Proposal of July 21, 1955 (University of Texas Press at Austin, 1982). Rostow was a member of Rockefeller's staff, and this book is the most authoritative account of the episode.