

Oggi on Navigator's Release

Oggi in Italia (Clandestine) in Italian to Italy 1939 GMT 21 March 1964--L

(Text) U.S. Airman Harold Welch, navigator aboard the RB-66 shot down by a Soviet fighter over GDR territory on 10 February (as heard--ed.) has been freed and handed over to the U.S. military authorities. The announcement was made by the U.S. Air Force command stationed in West Berlin.

The officer was taken away in a U.S. Air Force ambulance sent for this purpose to the Soviet military hospital in Magdeburg to which he had been admitted owing to the grave injuries suffered when alighting by parachute.

There is no news of the other two airmen captured immediately after the shooting down of the aircraft. A spokesman of the U.S. Government stated that negotiations on their release are continuing. He added that for the time being journalists will not be allowed to see the released officer.