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Fulbright Notes New Spy Flights

The United States halted its aerial reconnaissance flights over Communist China 18 months ago but recently began them again. Just as it took steps to ease Sino-American tensions, Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee declared.

"At a time when we are hoping to resume talks with the Chinese in Warsaw it seems to me ill advised at best to begin again to send surveillance flights over China," Fulbright told the Senate.

Without disclosing his source, the senator reported that the surveillance flights had been halted sometime after the last pilotless reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Communist China in March, 1963.

Fulbright said the flights were resumed "within the best few weeks" and then were immediately followed by a report that another U.S. drone had been shot down by the Chinese.

"We don't have any comments on the senator's state-

ments," a State Department spokesman declared. He referred all inquiries on foreign reconnaissance to the Pentagon.

Fulbright in his speech on the Senate floor noted that it was only recently that the Nixon administration decided to ease Sino-American tensions by lifting the ban against American educators and scientists visiting China and by granting U.S. tourists in Asia permission to buy up to \$100 worth of goods that were manufactured on the Chinese mainland.