

CIA
**Cuba Denies It Holds
U-2 Pilot in Ice Block**

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—The Cuban Government has officially denied a report that it has the body of an American U-2 reconnaissance pilot in a block of ice, the State Department said today.

The report emerged when members of the Ripon Society, a liberal Republican organization, visited Havana last month and were advised by a Cuban Foreign Ministry aide named Rinaldo Legon of the existence of "a U-2 pilot in a block of ice." *

John Head, a Denver lawyer who was a member of the Ripon group, said Mr. Legon volunteered the information in a discussion of Cuban political prisoners. He quoted him as saying, "We've got one nobody wants—he's in a block of ice." Later, according to Mr. Head, the Cuban said the body was of a U-2 pilot named Johnson who was shot down 14 years ago.

The State Department inquired through the Swiss Embassy, which represents its interests in Havana. The embassy replied that it had been informed that the report had no foundation. The Central Intelligence Agency said no pilot named Johnson was missing.

* SEE 30 OCT 76