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American U2 pilot, shot down in Russia, to stand trial in Moscow as a spy 19/7/1960

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U-2 pilot to stand trial

ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Moscow, July 18.

Captain Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot, will be tried on a charge of espionage in Moscow on August 17—his 31st birthday. The case will be heard in an open session of the Military College of the Supreme Court, the highest military Court in the country. Officials say that the trial will be open to foreign journalists and visas may be granted to journalists wishing to enter Russia for the trial.

Powers, who was officially charged a week ago, will have a counsel appointed by the Court. If convicted, he could be imprisoned to from seven years upwards or sentenced to death. There is no appeal. The trial is not expected to last more than a few days because Powers is alleged to have confessed.

It is learned in Richmond, Virginia, that Mrs Powers, Powers's wife, has applied for a visa to go to Russia, but has received no answer from the Russian Embassy.—British United Press.

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