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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

25 September 1960

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MEMORANDUM FOR: General Andrew J. Goodpaster
Staff Secretary
The White House

1. Referring to our conversation on Friday afternoon, I note below a paragraph from page VIII of General Medaris' book, "Countdown for Decision".

"Positive, affirmative decision is the lifeblood of all organized human activity, and the only process by which progress is made. The absence of decision is in itself a decision -- a negative one -- and always spells trouble in the future. The U-2 disaster may well be a case in point. Why were we forced to use the vulnerable U-2? Much earlier it should have been replaced by something of greater performance, far less exposed to attack -- hopefully, even by a reconnaissance satellite. But there had been no affirmative decision, in time, to provide anything better."

2. As I mentioned to you, I have reason to believe that this book will be cited in the campaign in view of certain statements which were made to me by Senator Kennedy when I briefed him last Monday.

3. In the course of earlier briefings of both Senator Kennedy and Senator Johnson, they separately inquired about intelligence techniques to replace the U-2. My reply was of a general character, namely that both in the field of aircraft and earth satellites research and development work was progressing with reasonably satisfactory prospects, but I did not go into any measure of detail.

4. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall not give any more detailed briefings on this subject.

5. I do not know when, or if, I shall be called upon for further briefings as I have left this to the initiative of the respective candidates and have no definite appointment to brief either of them.

6. As you know, the important developments with regard to one of these sensitive operations occurred subsequent to the major briefings I gave to the two candidates, and my briefing of Senator Kennedy last Monday was restricted to a discussion of likely developments in connection with Khrushchev's visit to the UN and crisis areas, particularly Berlin.

Faithfully yours,


Allen W. Dulles
Director

