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DD/P 0-675

2 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Final Approval for Project OXCART

1. Ed Saunders called me today in the absence of Mr. Bissell to raise the point of whether the OXCART Project has received a final Presidential approval. His reason for raising this question, he said, was that he was getting static on this point from the Bureau of the Budget. Saunders also said that he and Mr. Bissell had agreed about 10 days ago that they would talk again on this subject prior to Mr. Bissell's departure on his trip. Unfortunately, they had not made contact.

2. Since the files did not appear to be conclusive on this point, I called [REDACTED] who suggested that I relate the following to Saunders in answer to his query.

At the 20 July 1959 meeting with the President, the President had said substantially that the Agency had set itself certain technical goals which it was not sure it could attain. If, in the judgment of those primarily responsible for the project, these technical goals were reached, they could proceed with the project. After final technical discussions during the week of January 25th, Mr. Bissell determined that the President's guideline had been complied with, and that it would not be necessary for the Agency to return to the White House for further approval.

3. I passed the substance of this message from [REDACTED] to Mr. Saunders, and the latter said that he thought this would settle the matter.

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Assistant to the DD/P

Distribution

Original - Mr. Bissell

✓ 1 - AC/DPD

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