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22 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Secretary Quarles Briefing (Reconnaissance Program)

1. The following persons attended the briefing:

Mr. Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of the Air Force  
Mr. James H. Douglas, Under Secretary of the Air Force  
Mr. Lyle S. Garlock, Asst. Secretary of the Air Force  
for Financial Management  
Mr. Trevor Gardner, Asst. Secretary of the Air Force  
for Research and Development  
General Nathan F. Twining, Chief of Staff, USAF  
Lt. Gen. Donald L. Putt, Deputy Chief of Staff, Development  
Maj. Gen. F. A. Bogart, Deputy Comptroller, USAF  
Mr. Richard E. Horner, Deputy Asst. Secretary of the Air Force  
for Research and Development  
Colonel Alman T. Culbertson, DCS/D  
Colonel O. J. Ritland  
Colonel Russell A Berg, DCS/O  
Colonel Gerald F. Keeling, DCS/M  
Lt. Col. Joseph J. Pellegrini, ARDC

Messrs. Douglas and Garlock were not knowledgeable of Project AQUATONE. Before the meeting Mr. Quarles attempted to telephone Mr. Allen Dulles and obtain authorization for these two individuals to become knowledgeable. Since he was unable to make a contact, he elected to assume the responsibility for their presence at the meeting. Follow-up action will be taken by the Air Force to clear Messrs. Douglas and Garlock through normal channels. General Twining and Mr. Gardner arrived late, but actively participated thereafter.

2. Colonel Pellegrini gave a twenty minute presentation of the entire Air Force reconnaissance development program and outlined military requirements under which each of these developments was initiated. Although he referred to Project AQUATONE, no details of our project were presented by him. Through this briefing, all participants became thoroughly familiar with the USAF program and were aware of the necessity to readjust and/or reorient programs consistent with the rapid development and capability of Project AQUATONE.

3. I followed Colonel Pellegrini and gave a complete review of our project, starting first with the history of the project, followed by a description of the aircraft and a summary report of its performance

USAF review(s) completed.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

-2-

to date. A few minutes were spent in naming the various systems we intend to incorporate in the aircraft plus the present concept of our operational deployment and operational dates. The main point stressed was the problem of obtaining and training pilots for the operational phase.

4. My presentation was followed by Colonel Culbertson who reviewed the status of the USAF aircraft procurement plan to purchase the Lockheed aircraft. His report was essentially the same as described in my memorandum for the record of 28 September. No change has taken place in Air Force planning for the procurement of additional articles; however, the four intruder versions for the Agency have been dropped.

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[redacted] Mr. Garlock stated that because of Department of Defense auditing requirements such a procedure was very bad from a security point of view and recommended that the USAF finance the entire procurement. His recommendation was approved; thus all additional aircraft will be financed solely by the Air Force. A major effort was made by all concerned to justify action now being taken to cancel the Bell X-16. Mr. Quarles seemed particularly interested in this project and wanted to be certain that this decision was a sound one and unanimously concurred in by the Air Staff. He was convinced that this action is justified.

5. At the conclusion of the informal briefings considerable discussion was held on the soundness of the over-all Air Force program. Specific subjects were: the acceptance of the new Air Force procurement program for the Lockheed aircraft, a specific review of the X-16 program, the procurement of facilities at Adana, Turkey, operational pilots, [redacted] and the RB-57-D. In summary, the following decisions were made and approved by all concerned:

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b. Mr. Quarles directed that the planned action of cancelling the X-16 program be expedited.

c. It was inferred that the Air Force would take the necessary action to finance and build facilities at Adana, Turkey. Mr. Garlock

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~~TOP SECRET~~

-3-

stated that the only funds that could be used for this project, consistent with the speed of construction and the security required, come under the control of Secretary Wilson. Mr. Gardner emphasized the need for a completed study on facilities required at Adana.

25X1 d. All participants were in agreement that the procurement of [redacted] for the operational phase of AQUATONE is an absolute necessity. Mr. Gardner was concerned over the slowness of this procurement program and requested that we make a major effort to obtain a limited number of [redacted] as soon as possible.

25X1 e. With regard to [redacted], both General Twining and Mr. Quarles confirmed the fact that this project is now under deployment for an operational date of 1 December. The Air Force is pursuing the project as though it will be launched in early December. Final approval has not yet been obtained.

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f. The RB-57-D program will continue as is. The first aircraft is scheduled to fly within the next few days and Mr. Quarles directed that the news release for the first flight be covered essentially as follows: The B-57-D is an outgrowth of the B-57 program and is a research vehicle for high altitude tests. It will be released as a prototype bomber with no reference to its reconnaissance capabilities.

[redacted]

O. J. RITLAND  
Colonel, USAF

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OJR/ [redacted]

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