

H. H. Wilson

~~TOP SECRET~~

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

FEB 6 1957

General Nathan F. Twining
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Twining:

I have discussed at some length with General Cabell the planned Air Force U-2 program as presented in your letter of 2 February 1957.

Your approval of the deployment of Detachment C to Atsugi, Japan, is greatly appreciated. As soon as Admiral Burke grants us access to that base we shall arrange to have necessary hangar modifications carried out expeditiously and subsequently to have the Detachment deployed. We will make additional space available to the Air Force at [] just as rapidly as possible so that the Air Force U-2 training can proceed there free from the limitations currently imposed by the presence of Detachment C.

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When Detachment C completes its move from [] only a small group of CIA representatives will remain there and the only continuing activities of this Agency will be the completion of the research and development program related to this project. I may remind you that the development work which remains to be completed is highly classified which precludes its move to another location and is of very direct interest to the Air Force. I am confident that our remaining requirements will not seriously interfere with the Air Force program.

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The senior CIA representative remaining at [] after the deployment of Detachment C will be a support commander who will be responsible for the administration of base support and who will handle relations with the company that furnishes base maintenance and messing

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and relations with [] concerning the support of activities at []
Two senior security officers will act as advisers to the USAF officer in charge of security. One USAF Captain will handle the remaining R & D effort on our final pieces of equipment. CIA communications cryptographers will be needed in sending and receiving Agency message traffic. CIA supply men and administrative clerks will assist in the base support function. All of these Agency personnel will be [] I understand this procedure has been discussed and agreed to by USAF and Agency planning groups. Except for this small Agency group, the USAF shall have complete operational and security control during its occupancy.

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I completely accept your view that the USAF must establish as expeditiously as possible, against the contingency of a war emergency, a reconnaissance capability based on the U-2. While I would like to concur fully in your plan for bringing this capability into being, I feel I must call your attention at this time to a problem which may arise in the future if the steps outlined in your letter are taken as and when presently planned. I do so not for the purpose of proposing that you now modify or delay the Air Force program but because I believe we should be prepared together to review this problem at a later date if it should arise.

The problem is that of maintaining the plausibility of the various explanations that have been given out or have been allowed to circulate to explain the nature and activities of our Detachments and the reason for their presence at various locations overseas. I am sure you share my profound hope that we will be granted permission to have this joint Project resume overflights both in Europe and in the Far East beginning this spring or in the early summer. Though such overflights might be limited in number and closely controlled in timing by higher authority, most certainly a great deal of vital intelligence could be obtained, even with a low sortie rate. If such operations were about to begin or were underway when the USAF units openly established themselves at Laughlin Air Force Base as part of a SAC Wing, previously known as a Strategic Reconnaissance organization but recently redesignated a Weather Reconnaissance Wing, I fear the consequences could be serious. The danger is that the association of the U-2 with a known photo reconnaissance wing, and with the recent redesignation of that wing, would give rise to much speculation both in the general press and in the aviation press concerning the true mission of our units, their use of what would then be revealed as a cover story, and their possible connection with SAC. I am sure you recognize that such a development could prejudice the chances for a continuation of overflight activity with the U-2.

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I realize, of course, that events may render this fear irrelevant or may lead us to conclude that the risk is not sufficiently serious to justify any modification of your program. I do believe, however, that it will be desirable for us to review the situation together about 1 May 1957 or, in any case, several weeks before the redesignation of the 4028th and 4029th Squadrons or their move to Laughlin Air Force Base with U-2 aircraft. If we should find at that time that the redesignation or move would jeopardize the security of our joint Project, I hope you would then consider making necessary modifications in your program so as not to jeopardize a going action so vital to the interests of both our Agencies. I also request that in the meanwhile every effort be made to maintain a degree of compartmentation between the Air Force units at [redacted] and the 4080th Wing so that the former will not come to be associated with the latter either publicly or widely within the Air Force until the actual move takes place.

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Subject only to the above comments, I concur in the USAF proposed program presented in your letter. I wish to assure you again we will do everything in our power to facilitate and expedite the program.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

CONCURRENCE:

ED FEB 6 1957
DDCI

(S) J. G. D. Hoff, Jr. FEB 6 1957
Project Director

JAG:hh (5 Feb 57)
Rewritten: RMB:gjg (6 Feb 57)

Distribution:

- Copy 1 & 2-Gen. Twining
- 3-DDCI
- 4-Dep Proj Dir
- 5-Proj Dir Subj
- 6-Proj Dir Chrono (w/incoming)
- 7-L/Col Leo P. Geary

TS-150030 ✓
Copy 3 of 8

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CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence	<i>afc</i>	11 Feb '57
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Attached is my rather belated trip report. However, because of my absence, a considerable number of things have piled up and I have had trouble finding time to do an adequate job of reporting the trip. As I stated in the report, I can not adequately express my appreciation for the cooperation, understanding and assistance afforded to me, both in [redacted] and [redacted].

Attached are copies which you may wish to route to the other officers indicated.

[redacted]

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FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM:	NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
[redacted]	ESO, Ex. 3985	5 Feb 57
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

I'm advised that the attached report is submitted for your approval of:

- (1) The report itself, and
- (2) The proposed distribution. (All proposed recipients are cleared to receive this type information.) Do you approve the distribution as indicated?

YES NO

Incidentally, for your information, Mr. Bissell has not yet seen this report. (It was routed through his office, however, for handling purposes.)

[Signature] K-

(DATE)

7 Feb 57

321. Alon

TRANSMITTAL		
		12 Feb (Date)
TO: Doris		
BUILDING	ROOM NO.	
REMARKS:		
<p>Attached for distribution is [redacted] report. Gen. Cabell has approved the distribution as indicated by [redacted]</p> <p>Although DDCI is on distribution for copies 1 and 2, we are returning these for your files.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>		
FROM: Kay		
BUILDING	ROOM NO.	EXTENSION

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FORM NO. 36-8
SEP 1946

16-05208-1 GPO

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 6 February 1957
TO: Doris <i>Kelly</i>		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p>Attached hereto is a package of papers to go to DD/CI. It is [redacted] desire that the whole package be forwarded to DD/CI inasmuch as the distribution is a suggested one for General Cabell's okay. Also, [redacted] wants to be sure DD/CI approves the report as is before further distribution is made.</p> <p>Thanks much.</p> <p><i>All listed on proposed distribution are cleared for Roy Aquatone.</i></p> <p><i>Sam</i></p>		
FROM: [redacted]		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

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