

S E C R E T

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5 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Activities

SUBJECT: Kelly Johnson Visit 6 April with
Admiral Raborn

1. In connection with Dr. Wheelon's request to you that we pull together our ideas on possible subjects which Kelly Johnson might choose to discuss with the Director, I have the following brief list of possibilities. I have long ago given up attempting to second guess Kelly when it comes to a meeting of the sort he will have with the Admiral, but these are certainly possibilities:

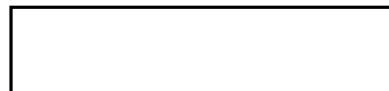
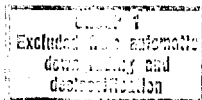
a. The question of security clearances for the skunk works: This was covered in a separate memorandum to Dr. Wheelon which I understand, from him, he has already talked to the Director about.

b. General Geary tells me this morning that Kelly has an appointment later in the day with Dr. Flax to discuss "something entirely new". Leo added that it was his suspicion that this would be Kelly's approach to the problem of what system should come after the OXCART. We have known for some time, beginning with a discussion over a year ago between Kelly and General Carter, that Kelly favored a

[redacted] as his answer to our efforts in the ISINGLASS Project about which we feel he has some limited information.

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NRO review(s)
completed.

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We've also known that Kelly has been working on a proposal for a [REDACTED] presumably with Lockheed funds. Even though he may raise this first with Dr. Flax, I think he will also want to mention it to Dr. Wheelon and the Admiral perhaps if for nothing more than to elicit the latter's support in any NRO decision on the subject. I think Kelly has already written us off as a source of material assistance in major funding.

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c. It is not at all impossible that Kelly may have developed some new gadget applicable to the North Viet Nam situation about which he and the Director have had several discussions over the past year. You may recall Kelly's idea for a king-size tractor device which would assist in defoliation in the jungle areas. As I say, he could be coming in with something in this department although we have no advance intelligence on this subject.

d. Personally, I would look to him to also raise the question of a new buy on the U-2R. Recent loss rates have tended to add new emphasis to his announcement that the time to get started is now. General Geary has raised with Dr. Flax a proposal for the procurement of twenty-five U-2R's without specific reference as to who would get how many of the new aircraft. I understand, but without confirmation, that Dr. Flax has discussed this with Dr. Hornig, the President's Scientific Advisor. Geary's proposal as he related it to me deals only with FY 67 funds while our proposal, which has not been sent to Dr. Flax yet, did furnish modest sums for long lead time items in FY 66.

e. Ever since Kelly started getting awards from universities and the government for "the YF-12A and SR-71" he has said repeatedly that at some point he would be willing to

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[Redacted]

"sit down and discuss with LBJ" about using the OXCART capability if we found ourselves unable to advance BLACK SHIELD through the many hurdles it faces prior to deployment. There is an outside chance that he may mention this to Admiral Raborn knowing as he does that we have not yet received Presidential permission to use BLACK SHIELD. If he does this, I think it will come in the form of a question to Admiral Raborn to the effect that he, Kelly, stands ready to move into the political arena on BLACK SHIELD, if we feel the time is right.

2. Perhaps the above may cover Dr. Wheelon's request insofar as we can read the tea leaves from here.

[Redacted]

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Director of Special Activities

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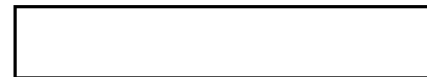


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