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IDEA-3273-66

Copy 7

9 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Activities

SUBJECT : Article 383 Disposition

1. Article 383 [redacted] has experienced two hard landings culminating with a third hard landing on its first flight of 9 August 1966. This latest landing introduced a number of visual discrepancies and distortions, plus, in our opinion, additional unknown stresses to the airframe.

2. The Lockheed Maintenance Crew [redacted] is confident that all repairs and inspections can be performed and the Article made airworthy locally. We disagree. We have thoroughly explored this aspect with the Lockheed Project Manager at Van Nuys. He believes with us that this approach would be inviting future problems. Specifically: (a) the repeated wing impacts with the runway, (b) heavy side loads incurring during the "S" turns and (c) a recent history of hard landings may have distorted the wings and stressed their bolt mountings beyond any local capability to test or inspect.

3. Recommendation: Article 348 [redacted] be readied, up-dated for Systems installations and transported to [redacted] on 12 August 1966. Article 383 be disassembled, crated and airlifted to Van Nuys. An exchange of engines would be performed between these Articles to insure [redacted] retains the -2 engine for installation in Article 348.

4. Summary: This office is proceeding in coordination with appropriate staff and field activities, on the execution of the above plan.

[redacted signature box]

Colonel USAF
Deputy for Materiel, OSA

[redacted]

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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D/M/OSA let (9 Aug 66)
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-2-

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