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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Richard Helms
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter [redacted] and comments regarding the utilization of U-2s between CIA and the Air Force.

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Dave and I have discussed this matter and agree that we should look for a solution that would enable you to keep the two aircraft [redacted] but at the same time, we should strive to minimize the impact on presently assigned roles and missions.

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The Air Force will deploy two additional aircraft to Thailand in August. This will make a total of three U-2s in SEA fulfilling a joint photo/COMINT collection requirement and will release other COMINT collect platforms now operating in the Gulf of Tonkin. If one of your three aircraft at the Edwards Detachment could be loaned to the Air Force, it would be used at Davis-Monthan to meet SAC's training and pilot upgrade requirements. The two U-2s remaining at Edwards could thus be utilized to support the systems testing activities of the fleet. Also, if at any time an NRP mission required a CIA deployment, the loaned aircraft or a suitable replacement would be returned to Edwards within 36 hours.

I believe this proposed solution, the loan of an aircraft from CIA to the Air Force, would most easily meet both our needs with the least interruption to assigned missions and responsibilities. With your concurrence, suggest that the respective program offices arrange for the loan of the aircraft on or about August 16, 1971.

Sincerely,

[Signature of John L. McLucas]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: W

July 28, 1971

Mr. Carl E. Duckett
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Carl:

Since George Low will not return to his office until completion of the Apollo 15 mission, I am replying to your letter of 22 July 1971.

We concur in your request to place Tom Albert on the special assignment under the conditions you described. Tom is agreeable to this and we are pleased that he has special talents needed for this particular mission.

We appreciate the unique and highly important service your organization provides to NASA. We welcome this opportunity to assist.

Sincerely,

Jacob E. Smart
Assistant Administrator for
DOD and Interagency Affairs

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