

"THE MOST QUIET AMERICAN" -- Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 8 December 1966

[This is a translation of an article by V. BOL'SHAKOV, published in Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 8 December 1966.]

Six automobiles -- long limousines with shades drawn over their dark windows -- are being driven at high speed on the highway from Los Angeles, their brakes screaming at the sharp curves. After crossing a pass, the lights of Burbank appear in the valley. Somewhere down there, the conveyor belts of Lockheed aircraft plants are constantly on the move.

Several miles before reaching Burbank, the mysterious cavalcade of cars turns off the highway and soon the limousines stop at a barrier bearing the sign "Private road. No trespassers allowed." There is a check of documents, and 15 minutes later another barrier, behind which is a tall iron gate with the sign "Property of Lockheed Corporation." A stout little man in an old-fashioned, baggy suit approaches the limousines and gets into the first car. The cavalcade moves on across an airfield and soon stops in front a low hanger, inside of which a dim light is barely noticeable.

Together with "Shorty" -- who is the chief designer of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Clarence (Kelly) Johnson, -- a tall man gets out of the first car; he holds himself erect like a telephone pole and his hat is pulled down low over his forehead. "So this is your 'burrow', Kelly?" he asks.

"Yes, Dick. This is the 'Polecat's (Ferret's) Burrow'." [or "Skunk's"!]

"Well, lets see what kind of an odor your burrow has, Kelly."

Inside the hanger, in the bluish light of neon lamps, stood a low, narrow-winged plane, painted black.

This was in January 1955. On that day, in the supersecret laboratory of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Kelly Johnson demonstrated his creation -- the U-2 spy plane -- to Richard Helms, Deputy Director for Planning of the CIA.

Eleven years have gone by since then. Quite a number of "black" birds have come out of this "burrow." And Richard Helms, who made his career with the help of these "birds", became at first the chief of the Planning Department, and in June of this year -- director of CIA.

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

AF Association Gives Top Award to LeMay

By the Associated Press

The Air Force Association has presented its top awards to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Aircraft Designer Clarence L. (Kelly) Johnson and Pulitzer Prize-winning Newsman Mark S. Watson of the Baltimore Sun.

Gen. LeMay received the top award, the H. H. Arnold trophy, as "Aerospace Man of the Year" at a black-tie banquet for the 2,700 delegates to the association's annual convention in Washington, which ended yesterday.

He was cited for "enlightened and aggressive leadership in behalf of higher status for the military career, greater professionalism in military service and increased security for military duty."

Mr. Johnson, designer of the supersonic A-11 research aircraft, now known as the YF-12A, received the Theodore Von Karman trophy for outstanding aerospace achievement in science.

Won Last Year

He is vice president for advanced development projects at the Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Burbank, Calif., and also won the award last year.

Mr. Watson, winner of a Pulitzer Prize in 1945, was cited for "contributing to greater public understanding of the role of aerospace power in national security."

A posthumous award went to the late Lt. Col. Robert M. Crawford, composer of the Air Force song, "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder." The award was accepted by his widow, Mrs. Hester Crawford of Miami.

Gen LeMay presented the Air Force Cross posthumously to Capt. Howard R. Cody of Gulfport, Miss., a B-28 pilot who was killed last year in combat

in Viet Nam. By exposing his plane voluntarily in a low-level flight near hidden Viet Cong machine-gun installations last November 24, Capt. Cody forced the enemy to reveal positions that led to their destruction by other aircraft.

Pins Medal on Son

Gen. LeMay pinned the medal on Howard Cody, jr., son of the pilot, and presented the citation to Mrs. Cody and the flier's parents.

Earlier, President Johnson in a message to the AFA convention had urged continued effort to assure that military men and their families "are adequately provided for and properly recompensed" for their sacrifices.

Mr. Johnson said the welfare of citizens in uniform is of great and continuing concern, not merely as a matter of justice or equity but from hard common sense.

"The Nation needs now, perhaps as never before, professional career servicemen with talent, training, imagination and versatility," Mr. Johnson said.

The President's message was contained in a letter read to the 4,000 convention delegates by the outgoing AFA president, Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace II, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

The convention heard Air Force Secretary Zuckert uphold the present tri-service system of national defense and declare that the United States could never go back to the former single system.

COPYRIGHT

COPYRIGHT