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2 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Alexander H. Flax  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Operation BLACK SHIELD Key Decision Dates

1. The orderly progression of scheduled actions to meet the BLACK SHIELD operational readiness date is keyed to three major actions and the decision dates required to provide adequate lead time for implementation.

<u>Major Action</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Implementation</u>
Movement of Advanced Party <input type="text"/> & Materiel Airlift (257,000 pounds)	1 November 65	1 December 65
Main Party Personnel Airlift <input type="text"/>	15 December 65	4 January 66
Aircraft Deployment (3 A-12, 2 F-101)	15 December 65	10 January 66

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2. The final major decision date is 15 January 1966 when the 303 Committee should meet to consider approval of the first overflight mission. Planned operational readiness date is 25 January 1966.

3. You also requested data on the actual deployment of A-12 aircraft to Kadena Air Base--this is attached hereto.

H. D. SHELDON  
Huntington D. Sheldon  
Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

Attachment a/s

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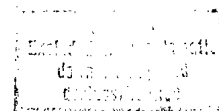
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**MEMORANDUM RE: Deployment of A-12 Aircraft to Kadena Air Base**

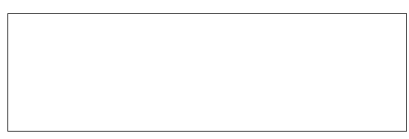
1. If approved by proper authority, three A-12 aircraft will be deployed to Kadena AB, Okinawa, during the period 10-17 January 1966. This deployment will be accomplished in two parts. The first leg will be from Area 51 to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and the second leg will be from Hickam AFB to Kadena AB transit Wake Island and Iwo Jima enroute.
2. The first aircraft will depart on 10 January 1966. The other two aircraft will follow at minimum intervals of forty-eight hours. Each aircraft will remain one night at Hickam AFB.
3. No clearances will be filed for the A-12 aircraft, however, airspace reservation for the flights will be coordinated with the Federal Aviation Agency. The A-12 will fly formation "Buddy Tactics" with KC-135 tanker aircraft enroute to Kadena AB.
4. Search and rescue coverage for the entire route has been arranged with USAF Air Rescue Service. The route has been planned so that if a scheduled refueling is not accomplished for any reason, there is ample fuel reserve to enable the A-12 to reach a suitable alternate airfield. All flying will be during daylight hours.
5. Adequate logistic, communications and emergency recovery support will be in place along the entire route.
6. Upon arrival at Kadena AB, the A-12 will be recovered by the Deployed Task Force which will be in place at that time.

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