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BYE 2810-65

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

EO 12958  
3.3(b)(1) >25Yrs  
EO 12958 6.2(c)  
20 AUG 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

On 14 August 1965, an A-12 aircraft flew nonstop from [redacted] to Orlando, Florida, back to the Test Site, then to Kansas City and return to its base. The flight was accomplished exactly as planned, simulating an operational mission with two air refuelings and three cruise legs. On each leg of the mission the aircraft cruised at its designed operational speed of Mach 3.1 at altitudes between 80,000 and 90,000 feet. The flight covered a total distance of 6500 nautical miles in 5 hours and 27 minutes, including air refueling times. A total time of 2 hours and 20 minutes was flown at cruise speed of Mach 3.1. The aircraft landed in excellent condition with only three minor malfunctions.

The significant aspects of this flight are:

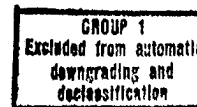
1. There were no air-flow disturbance conditions encountered in the engine air inlets--not even minor roughness. (This is the classic problem that plagues supersonic speed turbojet aircraft).
2. There were no electrical system problems.
3. There were no heat problems to the aircraft engines, or pilot due to the prolonged high speed, high temperature flight.
4. This flight is an important milestone and increases our confidence that we should have a reliable, operational aircraft in near future. (3 to 6 months for further validation.)

[(signed)] W. F. Raborn

W. F. RABORN

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: AUG 2007

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Signature Recommended:

[Redacted Signature]

Director of Office of Special Activities

Signature Recommended:

[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

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