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CHAL-0240

Copy 3 of 8

15 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT : Status of CHALICE/ [redacted] Deliberations in [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)(1)

1. I was obliged this morning to get in touch with Group Captain Wise by transatlantic telephone in connection with the defection from the list of nominees [redacted] who had been scheduled to come to the States this week to begin his training. I was concerned over the fact that I suspected [redacted] withdrawal was connected with the publicity that may have been afforded the Del Rio accident in London newspapers. In my talk with Wise, I found that this was true and that on Friday, 11 July, the story appeared in the London newspaper citing Squadron Leader Walker as being killed in a U-2 crash. Flight Lt. [redacted] withdrew from the program the following work day, 14 July, citing this accident as his reason. I am cabling [redacted] [redacted] for a copy of the newspaper release in Britain to be forwarded to us by pouch.

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(b)(1)

(b)(1)

2. Since I had Wise on the phone, I had an opportunity to ask him how the deliberations on Plan A and Plan B were coming in the [redacted]. He said that although the matter had not been fully staffed as yet [redacted] the predominant feeling among the principals concerned, just below the [redacted] level, was definitely in favor of the integration rather than the separate detachment concept. Wise said that with any luck he hoped to be able to report to us the approval of the [redacted] within a week or so.

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3. Certainly there seems to be no reluctance on their part in going ahead in making plans as Wise informed me that he has just been told by his communications people that they could have a circuit in [redacted] in operation within a week of [redacted] visit, now scheduled for late this week or early next. [redacted] himself was, at the time of my call, interviewing a replacement candidate for Flight [redacted] and was unable to talk with me on the phone.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

27

This document contains information  
relating to the [redacted]

CHAL-0240

Page 2

4. Wise indicated his own feeling and that of [redacted] which was that our own liaison officer, [redacted], should probably make plans to be in London sometime around the end of August when it appears that there would be problems to discuss. Wise indicated his own feeling that [redacted] and I might plan to come to London together in company with Colonel Smith, or someone from Operations, toward the end of August to focus on some of the arrangements which need to be consummated before we have a capability in being.

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5. I should like to point out formally that although the three pilots remaining at Del Rio will be through with their training on 8 August, I doubt that they will be in shape to be integrated into the detachment at Adams until the completion of Squadron Leader [redacted] flight training, which cannot even begin much before 11 August if everything works out properly. We were notified only this morning by cable that [redacted] plans to have Robinson take Walker's place as the projected unit commander in Colonel Beerli's organization. Our present schedule calls for completing all of our activities with the three remaining pilots on 29 August when they return from a week's stay [redacted]. As a consequence, I seriously doubt that we can have a CHALICE/[redacted] capability in being operationally until 1 October at the earliest. Your observations and reactions to this will be appreciated.

(b)(3)  
 (b)(3)  
 (b)(1)  
 (b)(1)

*/s/*  
 JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
 Director of Administration  
 DPS/DCI

JAC/sb

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*My 16/1*

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