

ER63-4023

AWD/wz

25 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: General Thomas White's Inquiry re CIA Attitude Towards SAMOS

1. On 18 May 1960, General White, Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, advised me that he had heard rumors to the effect that CIA wanted to take over the SAMOS Project. He asked for my frank comment.

2. I replied that I'd never even heard the rumor and that I was 99-44/100% certain that it was groundless as far as CIA was concerned. However, I agreed to make inquiries and report.

3. When I informed the DCI of this conversation he advised that he'd neither heard the rumor nor thought of the idea.

4. Messrs. [redacted] Amory and [redacted] were queried. They reported that they had heard of the question but that it was limited to the aspect of read-out and processing of the intelligence results of SAMOS. The question had been raised within the Defense Department and was still under discussion there on the basis of studying what would be the best method of handling the read-out and processing problem as far as the whole government was concerned.

5. On 24 May, I advised Major General James H. Walsh of the above and on 25 May I advised General White, including advice to both that CIA had no plans now to take any initiative in this but if queried by elements of Defense would respond that we would then consider it.

[redacted]

G. I. MCBELL
General, USAF
Deputy Director

cc: ✓ LCI File (orig)
DDCI
DD/I
DD/P

[Handwritten signature]
(EXCERPT FROM [redacted])

ER

41010

25X1

25X1

25X1