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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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Mandatory Review  
Case # NLJ 98-495  
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For the President  
from W. W. Rostow  
Adm. Rufus Taylor,

Dick Helms's Deputy, called  
27 December 1966 Today and  
said the

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable W. W. Rostow  
Special Assistant to the President  
SUBJECT : Advanced Reconnaissance Aircraft

final  
memo to  
you on the  
SR-71 -  
A-12  
problem  
did not  
quite  
fully  
reflect  
Helms's  
opinion.  
His  
statement  
followed.  
As since  
I haven't  
seen the  
Budget  
Bureau  
memorandum  
I can not  
comment.

Further to our telephone conversation of this date, this Agency feels that the draft memorandum on this subject prepared by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget does not quite fully reflect the opinion of the Director of Central Intelligence in that:

"The SR-71 aircraft cannot yet be considered essentially interchangeable with the A-12 for operational purposes because the A-12 has been fully operational for one year and has already demonstrated greater performance for peacetime reconnaissance missions than has the SR-71, which has not yet achieved an operational capability."

*Rufus Taylor*  
Rufus Taylor  
Acting Director

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