

~~TOP SECRET~~

22 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT : SKYLARK

1. It is essential as a matter of the highest national interest that we have an operational capability to conduct reconnaissance flights over Cuba with the OXCART vehicle as soon as possible and in any event no later than the first week in November, with characteristics on the order of Mach 2.8, altitude 80,000 feet, with a range of 2,500 nautical miles, or better as feasible, with four of this type aircraft.

2. You are to take all appropriate actions to insure that this highest priority objective of your Program is not in any way hindered by competing requirements of any kind. You should insure that the contractors, the field commanders, and anyone else having a direct impact upon the Program are aware of this highest priority objective, and you should bring to my attention at the earliest possible moment any proposal or directed course of action which might in any way interfere with our meeting this objective.

3. We seek in Project SKYLARK an urgent operational readiness and we must be careful to introduce into the program during the next several months only those modifications, procedures, and additional equipment, as are necessary to attain this objective.

(Signed), Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

132 MA 15 2
132 MA 15 2
132 MA 15 2

MSC:bec

Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - O/DCI
- 1 - Ex Dir
- 1 - ER
- X - DDCI

~~TOP SECRET~~

RELEASED AUG 2000

~~TOP SECRET~~

31-64
#5

b(1) b(3)

①

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL NO. _____

| REFERRED TO OFFICE | RECEIVED | | | RELEASED | | SEEN BY | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------|----------|------|----------------------|------|
| | SIGNATURE | DATE | TIME | DATE | TIME | NAME & OFFICE SYMBOL | DATE |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

(OVER)

Handle Via Indicated Controls



Access to this document will be restricted to those persons cleared for the specific projects;

OX CART
.....

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to [redacted] System.

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification