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SAPC-9268
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19 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director
THROUGH : Project Cover Officer
SUBJECT : Conversation of 18 September with Mr. Harry Press, NACA

1. Mr. Press visited me today, and we discussed several items of interest in connection with NACA support. These were:

25X1A6a a. Mr. Thomas Coleman, NACA, has returned from his two weeks stay in [REDACTED]. He has left at [REDACTED] the instrumentation 25X1A6a required in the event we decide to attempt an informal altitude record with certain engine modifications which I understand were to have been made prior to any effort of this kind. Mr. Press pointed out that, if we desire to attempt an altitude run, Mr. Coleman would be obliged to return to [REDACTED] to calibrate 25X1A6a and install the instruments now there.

25X1A6a b. Mr. Press mentioned that he is going to Los Angeles in a week or two to attend a symposium on behalf of NACA, which symposium is being convened by a Dr. Tilford of Ramo Wooldridge. This conference has no relation to this Project, however. Mr. Press would like to talk to certain of the engineering staff at Lockheed but does not wish to do so without our blessing. He also mentioned his desire to go to [REDACTED]. When I asked him why, he indicated that Mr. Coleman had advised him that the 25X1A6a Commanding Officer at [REDACTED] had apparently refused permission for the performance of the restricted climb flights required to produce low and medium altitude weather data for NACA processing (20,000 to 50,000 feet). I gathered that this question of the frequency of restricted climb flights at [REDACTED] is one with which you are familiar. 25X1A6a

25X1A6a c. In this connection, Mr. Press informed me that NACA has some twenty flight records in their hands representing 100 hours of flight time above 20,000 feet. Most of these records originated from [REDACTED]. He stressed the point that he had no comparable 25X1A6a flight records from [REDACTED] at all. He does have a very few coming which are above 50,000 feet and consequently are not presentable for a classified research paper. It was his opinion that, were he to publish the records now in his hands, i.e., those emanating from England, without being able to produce comparable records from the activity in the ZI, this would be so contrary to normal NACA planning that it would cause speculation. To this

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extent then, I believe that we need data of the sort requested from [redacted] primarily as a back-up for our overseas findings when these are published. Mr. Press further estimated that it would take three to four weeks to produce a rough research paper on the data now at hand, but before publishing this paper he would see that we had a chance to review it.

d. I gathered that Mr. Press discussed with you the matter that he mentioned to me which was a proposal that we drop any activity connected with a recording of cosmic ray data either at home or abroad.

2. As I have noted before, whenever I hear of delays in the production of weather reconnaissance data similar to those set forth above, I become concerned lest we, in our understandable desire to train pilots and mount successful operations, ignore inadvertently the production of our cover material which we will require for counter-propaganda uses should we encounter a major flap. Above this, however, I feel that we should utilize our resources in such a way that our meteorological findings collected from all of our detachments might become an important and positive scientific adjunct to this Project.

[redacted]

25X1A9a

Project Director of Administration
PCS/DCI

JAC/slh

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Action taken on par 10, 12. 20 Sept 1956. JAC

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