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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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20 June 1963

DOCUMENT NO. 91  
ED. CLASS. OR CLASS. X  
[ ]  
DATE: 20/11  
BY: Kelly  
REVIEWER: [ ]

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Programs Staff, OSA  
Chief, Contracts Division, OSA

SUBJECT : Approval for Long-Lead Time Items in U-2 Carrier  
Conversion

1. Following Kelly Johnson's discussions with Mr. Edward M. Ryan, BUNAVWEPS, Kelly and I had a wind-up chat on the telephone to see where we stood. His preliminary conclusions are that he will have to fabricate a new main landing gear for the U-2 to replace the light-weight magnesium gear in use now. Since the dies for the original U-2 landing gear cannot be located, he says that he will have to start to work on fabricating a new gear from scratch which will mean ordering a limited number of hand forgings from subcontractors. These, of course, will be engineered against the heavier stresses imposed on the gear in the course of carrier operations. According to Kelly, carrier operations will dictate twice the rate of descent that the gear is engineered for.

2. In view of Kelly's commitment of 18 June to a twenty-week time envelope for the complete U-2 conversion to carrier/J-75 configuration, and because he needs to procure certain lead-time items now in order to be able to keep that schedule based on a 1 July input date for the first bird, we agreed that it would be feasible to go ahead and immediately expend up to [ ] for critical items associated with landing gear. In addition, I asked him to proceed to develop a sling for the U-2 so that it might be hoisted aboard a carrier at dockside in the event that we find it necessary to use this system to launch aircraft against [ ] in a short time. This amount we agreed should initially be [ ]

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3. Above and beyond the immediate outlay [ ] referred to above, after conferring with the Chief, Programs Staff, OSA, it was agreed that we would proceed to obligate [ ] under the existing [ ] contract against the carrier conversion requirement. This, of course, would be from Fiscal

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Year 1963 funds in accordance with our current forecast for the balance of the Fiscal Year. It is likely that before the first of the month we may need more [redacted] and I will now be in a position to authorize additional pacing item expenditures from the [redacted]. Should we later for any reason decide to abandon the carrier concept, the obligated funds could be applied to the over-all conversion job, which will be a firm requirement for Fiscal Year 1964 now that Air Force has turned over two additional U-2's to us. I, therefore, request that the Chief, Contracts Division, OSA, send a TWX to Lockheed conforming with the facts as stated above and advise the undersigned. ILLEGIB

[redacted]  
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

P. 5. Subsequent to dictating the above, [redacted] was received. I request that we advise Kelly to immediately go ahead on fabrication of two sets of tin parts as requested in Paragraph 2 of this message. This [redacted] item can be costed against the [redacted] obligation noted above.

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