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6 January 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Surfacing of R-12

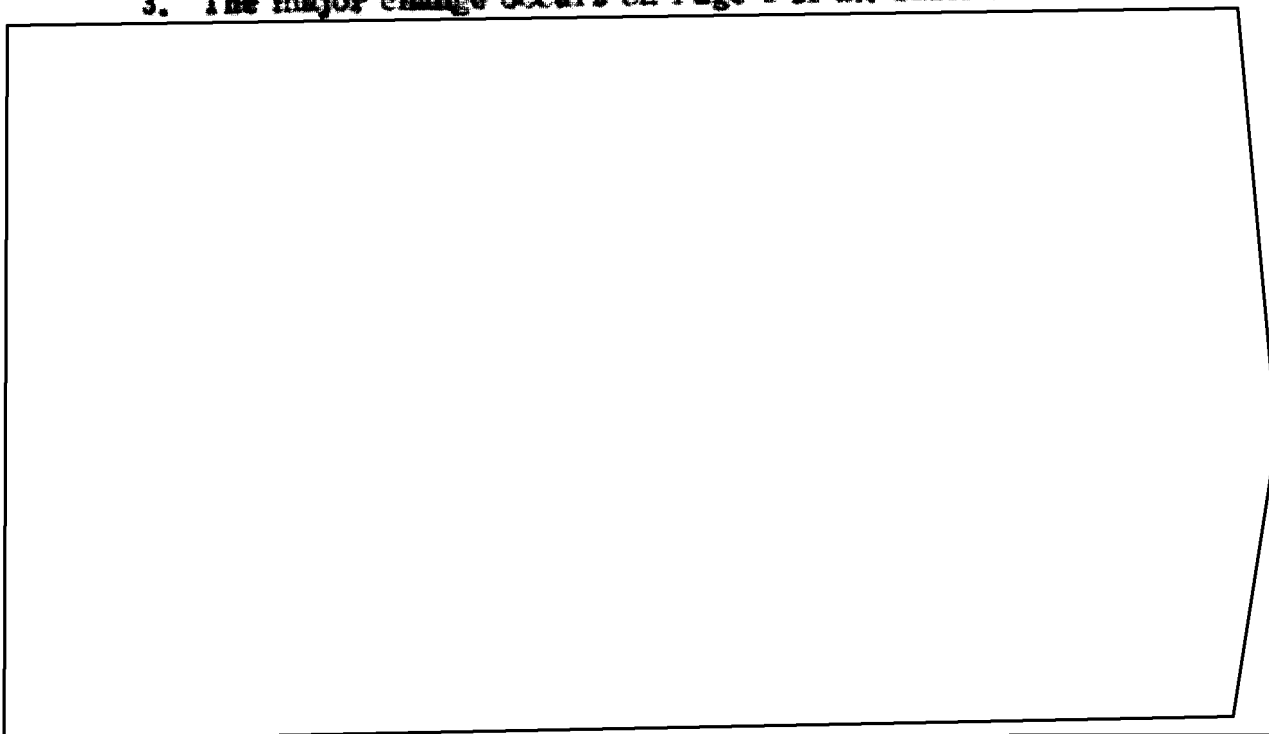
REFERENCE: DoD Draft dated 3 January 1963, same subject,



1. This memorandum includes a recommendation for action in Paragraph 6.

2. The revised version of the Department of Defense paper on surfacing of the R-12 has been reviewed and found to be not radically different from the previous version.

3. The major change occurs on Page 3 of the basic memorandum.



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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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4. The only other minor change in the DoD paper involves elimination of any reference to recon strike in the proposed draft statement and refers to the RX as a "strategic" reconnaissance vehicle.

5. In summary, this new paper and further consideration of the problem reinforce my previous feelings that the surfacing of the RX will be disastrous to the A-12 as an intelligence reconnaissance vehicle. I believe that even accidental or purposeful leaks relative to the A-12 would be much less damaging since they provide the opportunity for "no comment" or denials and do not commit the U.S. Government officially to this development. The surfacing would give the press and the aircraft industry a virtual free license to pry into and discuss openly all aspects of the RX development and would inevitably result in a much more extensive disclosure of the classified characteristics than could occur from leaks or rumors.

6. Therefore, I should like to recommend again that you place the problem before the President, perhaps at a NSC Executive Committee meeting, so that he can make a decision for the over-all National good based on both the requirements for an RX vehicle, the requirements for an A-12 intelligence capability, and the probable consequences to this latter capability resulting from the surfacing of the RX development. This must be done as soon as possible in order to avoid the decision occurring by erosion or default and without an unbiased evaluation considering broad National interest.

ILLEGIB

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)

Attachment

DDR/HScoville  
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*Series B, #1*

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

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