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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2002

29 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of 29 May on AQUATONE/OILSTONE

Certain matters concerning the above project were discussed 29 May by Messrs. Quarles and A. W. Dulles and Generals Twining, Bergquist and Goodpaster. The more important decisions arrived at were as follows:

1. The SAC U-2 follow-on program will move to Del Rio as planned but serious consideration will be given to the suggestion that, for the next several months at least, no missions will be flown at Del Rio carrying cameras or camera hatches. The purpose of imposing this limitation would be to avoid the revelation to a large circle of unwitting personnel that the U-2 is primarily a photo reconnaissance aircraft.
2. The present draft press release on the move to Del Rio will be shortened and then put in the hands of all interested parties. The time of its release will be a matter of judgment. The release should be postponed as long as feasible but not so long as to create any air of mystery surrounding the aircraft or its ostensible function in SAC.
3. General policy with respect to the military and non-military use of the U-2 was stated to be as follows:
 - (a) So long as the U-2 is used, or there is a good chance that it will be used, for overflights in peace time, there is a preference that this mission be performed by a civilian agency using civilian pilots.
 - (b) When the Russians are believed to achieve an interception capability so that the above peace time mission of the U-2 is ended, these aircraft will presumably be turned over to the military services to be retained as a military capability.
 - (c) In the meanwhile, every effort will be made to proceed with the build-up of the SAC U-2 capability subject to not destroying the cover currently employed by AQUATONE/OILSTONE.

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4. In accord with the above policy, the present project will continue through the current (1957) reconnaissance season. At a later date the experience of the season (and presumably intelligence on Russian capabilities) will be reviewed to decide whether there is sufficient prospect of using the U-2 for overflight purposes next season to justify the maintenance of the U-2 capability in a civilian framework as at present.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (S) 5. No approach will be made to [redacted] with respect to a joint project involving the U-2 at least for the present.

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

[redacted]

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR. [redacted]
Project Director

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