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OX CART

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OXCART

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12 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

SUBJECT: Operational Readiness of the
OXCART System

1. As of this date I am very pleased to announce that, in my judgment, the A-12 aircraft, its technical intelligence sensors, and its operating detachment are operationally ready.

2. The detachment is manned, equipped, and highly trained.

3. The aircraft system is performing up to specifications with satisfying reliability and repeatability.

4. The only exception to original design goals is in range. Due to some as yet unexplainable phenomena at cruise conditions, now under investigation, there is approximately a 17% deficiency in the original specified range. Until this deficiency is eliminated, it will be necessary to plan operations within the present demonstrated useable operational range.

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

JACK C. LEDFORD
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

cc: DCI
DDCI
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