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Copy 1 of Series B

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Advanced Reconnaissance Aircraft

The attached paper addresses the size of the supersonic (Mach 3.2) reconnaissance aircraft fleet, now made up of 11 CIA A-12's and 30 Air Force SR-71's. It recommends a reduction in the total size of the active fleet.

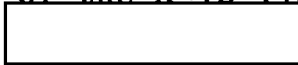
Based upon a six month joint study of this problem, Mr. Vance, Mr. Helms and I have identified three alternatives for accomplishing this reduction:

1. Retain both the A-12 and SR-71 fleets at separate bases and reduce the total fleet by storing 12 SR-71 aircraft. (Estimated savings in 1968, [redacted] million; five year savings, [redacted]) 25X1  
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2. Retain only the SR-71 aircraft and assign 8 of them to CIA to be operated from [redacted] [redacted] (Estimated savings in 1968, [redacted] five year savings, [redacted]) 25X1  
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3. Retain only the SR-71 aircraft at a single base under Air Force management with possible use of some civilian crews for covert missions. (Estimated savings in 1968, [redacted] five year savings, [redacted]) 25X1  
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Mr. Helms, Mr. Vance, Dr. Hornig and I agree that the total fleet size should be reduced. It is our view that a reduced total of 30 aircraft will meet all probable mission requirements

Mr. Helms recommends that a CIA capability be retained. He also believes that the A-12 has a greater capability already demonstrated for performing peacetime reconnaissance missions than the SR-71 which is not yet operational and recommends retention of the A-12 fleet--i.e., Alternative 1 (five year savings, [redacted])

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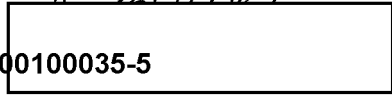
Mr. Vance and I recommend storing the A-12 aircraft and consolidating the operations under the Air Force--i.e., Alternative 3 (five year savings, [redacted])

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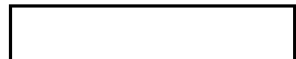
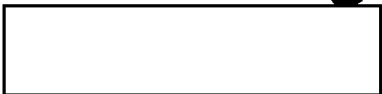
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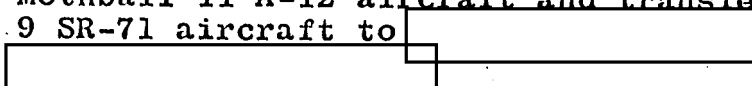
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Recommendations

We recommend approval of the reduction in the active fleet size. In addition, your decision is needed on the following three alternatives for accomplishing the reduction.

Alternative 1: Mothball 12 SR-71 aircraft and continue CIA operation of the A-12's.

Alternative 2: Mothball 11 A-12 aircraft and transfer 9 SR-71 aircraft to



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Alternative 3: Mothball 11 A-12 aircraft and phase-out the CIA fleet capability by January 1968.

Attachment

Approve:

Alternative 1 \_\_\_\_\_

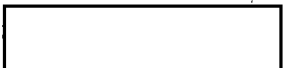
Alternative 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 3 \_\_\_\_\_

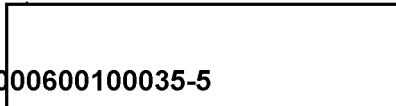
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