

Army Declass/Release Instructions On File
Declassification/Release Instructions on File

IDEA-0165
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8 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with Mr. Clarence L. Johnson Regarding U. S. Army Interest in U-2 Aircraft

1. On 6 February Kelly Johnson called to state that he had had a telephone inquiry from the office of Major General Richard D. Meyer, USA, Deputy Chief of Transportation for Aviation. The call was placed by a Lt. Colonel W. J. Lingan in General Meyer's office (Room 1838, Gravelly Point; Telephone Extension 74161).
2. The call was prompted by reported interest on the part of the Army in the U-2 as a possible weapons system for battlefield surveillance. Apparently Army emphasis is drifting away from unmanned drones similar to those pioneered by Republic Aviation and Fairchild. Colonel Lingan reported that General Meyer was interested in performance characteristics and specifications on the U-2. Kelly Johnson did not speak with Lingan, but checked with us to see what restrictions might exist in making this information available.
3. I told Kelly that we did not wish to act in such a way as to foreclose discussions leading to a possible order by the Army for these aircraft. I said that I would take this matter up with Dick Bissell, and if Colonel Geary were not available, I would be willing to call Lingan to see what the specific area of Army interest was. Subsequently, I obtained Mr. Bissell's concurrence in preliminary discussions with General Meyer, but was then able to get in touch with Colonel Geary on 8 February and turned the matter over to him for follow-up, noting to him Mr. Bissell's concurrence in these discussions. Colonel Geary stated that he would advise me of any developments, and I then sent a TWX to Kelly Johnson, advising him of the referral to Colonel Geary and promising him word regarding the outcome.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief
DPD-DD/P

CC: 

Col. Geary

25X1A

25X1A

Distribution:

- 1 - ASST CH/DPD
- 2 - [REDACTED]
- 3 - Asst to DD/P
- 4 - AFCIG-5
- 5 - AC/EPD
- 6 - C/EPD/OPS
- 7 - EPD/ADMIN
- 8 - C/EPD/DB
- 9 - EPD/SO
- 10 - EPD/RI

EPD-50/P: JACunningham, Jr./AG

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of the Comptroller

ATTENTION: Chief, Budget Division

SUBJECT: Current U-2 Inventory

25X1A

1. The Agency U-2 Aircraft are currently located as follows:

WSP-IV, Edwards Air Force Base

U2C	342
"	352
U2E	343
"	344
"	353
"	378

25X1C

WSP-II, Adana Air Base, Turkey

U2 355

2. In the event of a change in the total number of U-2 Aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Agency you will be so advised.

JAMES A. CURRINHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief
WFO-10/P

Distribution:

- 0 & 1 - Addressee
- Cy 3 - AC/DFD
- Cy 4 - ASST CH/DFD
- Cy 5 - C/OPS/DFD
- Cy 6 - FM/DFD
- Cy 7 - SO/DFD
- Cy 8 - ADMIN/DFD
- Cy 9 - C/MA/DFD
- Cy 10 - RI/DFD