

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM
10 Dec 1968

MEMO FOR MR. [redacted]

Reference your recent conversation with [redacted] I hereby transmit a copy of the OXCART/TAGBOARD briefing document for your file.

[redacted]

Mr. [redacted]
Per your request
the attached
was dispatched
to Mr. [redacted]
Art
[Signature]

BYE 1364-68
217 -
TRAINING PAPERS

OXCART/TAGBOARD
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Because of your contractual or official status with the United States Government, you have been selected for briefing on an extremely sensitive covert project. Your access authorization is based on an established "need-to-know" and favorable clearability as determined by an extensive background investigation.

The purpose of this briefing is to acquaint you with the sensitivity and stringent security requirements surrounding the project and to advise you of your personal responsibilities regarding the project.

After the briefing you will be required to sign an official oath certifying that you have been briefed and that you understand the security requirements of the project.

The sensitive nature of the briefing demands that certain restrictions be placed on your travel, both personal and in the performance of your duties. Generally, you are prohibited from travel or duty in "non secure areas" or Communist-bloc countries. If you agree to these restrictions, they will be explained in greater detail later in the briefing.

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The program for which you have been granted access is Project ^{OXCART/TAG-}BOARD Project ^{OXCART/}TAGBOARD is a TOP SECRET Byeman, Department of Defense activity concerned with the covert development, testing, and eventual operational employment of a supersonic, pilotless, high altitude reconnaissance drone.

This drone will be directed and utilized by the highest United States Government authorities to acquire essential photo intelligence information through overflight of denied areas. The drone will be launched from a B-52 aircraft and operated by specially selected, trained and cleared USAF personnel.

Project ^{OXCART/}TAGBOARD is directed covertly by a Program Director, overtly identified as the Special Activities Division, Directorate of Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare, Deputy Chief of Staff, USAF, Research and Development (AFRDRP), The Pentagon. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) provides Project ^{OXCART/}TAGBOARD with covert contracting as required to support project research and development conducted by industrial organizations.

The extremely sensitive covert nature of the information you have received has caused it to be placed under a security control system that is completely separate and distinct from the Department of Defense, military or industrial security systems which you may have worked with in the past. This system which

OXCART/TAGBOARD

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is identified as the Byeman security system, is controlled by the CIA and is handled in a completely covert manner. Even the fact that such a Byeman security system exists must not be revealed to persons who have not been properly granted access and briefed in accordance with Byeman ^{OXCART/}~~TAGBOARD~~ security procedures.

The Byeman system is unique in that access is severely limited based on "need to know". Rigorous investigative standards are met on all persons nominated for access and physical and administrative security policies are strictly adhered to.

Despite these rigid rules, a large portion of the success of the Byeman system is due to the cleared individual accepting the responsibilities imposed on him. Project ^{OXCART/}~~TAGBOARD~~ information should be discussed with no one until the individual's ^{OXCART/}~~TAGBOARD~~ access has been verified and then only if there is a "need to know". Access approval can be verified by contacting the Project security officer or local Byeman Control Officer (BCO) whichever is applicable. In addition, Project ^{OXCART/}~~TAGBOARD~~ material will be stored only in areas previously designated as Byeman secure areas. Individuals approved for access are also required to report to their security officer or BCO any change in personnel status such as: marriage or divorce, change of assignment or job, anticipated foreign travel, association with foreign nationals of communist-bloc countries or with individuals who are suspected of attempting to acquire classified information to which they are not entitled.

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