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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



12 December 1969



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The Honorable David Packard
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dave:

I received your letter of 9 December concerning your desire to prepare a plan for consolidating the U-2 aircraft in the Strategic Air Command. As I think we agreed at the last EXCOM meeting, the question whether to continue a CIA U-2 fleet or to consolidate in SAC is an issue which needs an early decision. Should that decision be to consolidate, we will plan to work closely with John McLucas on a consolidation program.

As I understood our discussion at EXCOM, we agreed that this question involved political issues of national interest and was, therefore, appropriate for 303 Committee review from a policy standpoint. Pursuant to that, we are preparing the necessary papers to raise this matter before the Committee at an early date.

I am sure you agree that the question of whether to continue the CIA fleet (i. e. to maintain the reconnaissance flexibility inherent in it) is a subject for policy decision of the White House.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

cc: Dr. McLucas ✓

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