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This document contains information referring to Projects:

OXCART/TAGBOARD
MEMORANDUM FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL STEWART

SUBJECT: OXCART/TAGBOARD Flight Test Program Contingency Procedures

The quoted statement for TAGBOARD was coordinated with Generals LeBailly and Casey prior to dissemination. It was their suggestion, as stated in ADIC 1223, that release in the event of emergency was to be only on an "if inquired" basis. They do not retain this statement in their files but understand it will be provided them as required.

LEO P. GEARY
Colonel, USAF
AFIGO-S
MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL LEO P. GEARY, AFIGO-S

SUBJECT: OXCART/TAGBOARD Flight Test Program
Contingency Procedures

I have reviewed ADIC 1223 which sets forth "Emergency
Procedures for Tagboard Flight Tests" in conjunction with
BYE OXC 6873 (Emergency Procedures for Non-Operational A-12
Flights) which the former supplements for purposes of this
test program. I find that these documents set forth sound
procedures and are lucid in every respect, with the possible
exception that it is not clear what specific information
will be released by SAPOI in response to inquiry in the event
of a mishap.

It is my understanding that the language appearing in
paragraph 2 of ADIC 1223; "This vehicle is a supersonic
test bed designed to further investigate the phenomena
associated with supersonic flight, especially the various
stress factors encountered at high speeds" relates to the
Tagboard drone vehicle. The cover story prescribed in BYE
OXC 6873, Section V, A, 2: "The aircraft is an F-12
(presumably we will now use the YF-12-A designator) and is
the property of the U.S. Air Force and is presently involved in
a classified research problem" relates of course to the A-12
vehicle.

A mishap might occur under any number of circumstances
which might result in exposure of: (1) the Tagboard drone only;
(2) the A-12 vehicle only; (3) or both. It is not clear from
the present plan if in the event of exposure situation #1, we
would gratuitously confirm the Y-12A as being the launch
vehicle, if in the event of exposure situation #3 just how the
two cover statements would be linked, and it is also not clear
as to what, if anything, would be said concerning the point
of departure of the drone or the A-12 (depending on the
circumstance).

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I feel it is important that SAPOI be given at this time an approved statement (or statements) which leave no area for misunderstanding or that they are advised that no statement will be released until such time as specific direction has been given by the Under Secretary of the Air Force resulting from a careful examination of all known circumstances relating to the incident.

Copy to:
Program Director B

Col Northman coordinated 23 March 55

JAMES T. STEWART
Brigadier General, USAF
Director
NRO Staff