MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ALBERT C. HALL, ASD(I)

SUBJECT: NRO Responsibility for Aircraft Overflights

Immediately following our luncheon I looked up the charter reference that I referred to regarding NRO responsibility for aircraft operations. Three statements in the August 11, 1965 Agreement relate to this subject:

a. Para A.1. states: "The NRP is a single program, national in character, to meet the intelligence needs of the Government under a strong national leadership, for the development, management, control and operation of all projects, both current and long range for the collection of intelligence and of mapping and geodetic information obtained through overflights (excluding peripheral reconnaissance operations)."

b. Para A.2. states: "The National Reconnaissance Program shall be responsive directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board. Targeting requirements and priorities and desired frequency of coverage of both satellite and manned aircraft missions over denied areas shall continue to be the responsibility of USIB, subject to the operational approval of the 303 Committee." (The 303 Committee is now the 40 Committee).

c. Para D.1.e. states that the NRP Executive Committee will: "Assign operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions to CIA or DOD subject to the concurrence of the 303 Committee."

In addition, as Director of the NRO, I am the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee responsible for approving contingency plans for aircraft overflights.
All of these lead to the observation that the NRO has some responsibility for aircraft operations but it is not well defined. As soon as I complete the present study on the subject of NRO responsibility for aircraft operations, I will be back to you for review.

J. W. Plummer