SHORT RESUME OF SR-71 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

15 August 1961

Dr. Joseph V. Charyk, UnderSecretary of the Air Force, in agreement with Allen W. Dulles, Director, CIA, agreed to buy six aircraft, presumably three SR-71 and three YF-12s based on the CIA's A-W aircraft.

January 1963

Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense, established the R-12 program under the National Reconnaissance Office.

April 1963

Director Program "D", under the NRO, was named responsible for the system development of the R-12/YF-12 aircraft. Simultaneously, a systems program office was established at systems command at Wright-Patterson AFB, under ASD.

25 July 1966

The program direction for management responsibilities for the SR-71 and YF programs was transferred to the systems program office at Wright-Patterson. The DNRO remained responsible for providing logistics support to the SAC program. From June 67 until June 68 the A-12 was deployed and actively flew over North Vietnam from its Kadena AB, Okinawa. The SR-71 did become operational and did replace the A-12 at Kadena as was originally planned.

May 1968

Beginning June 68 the SR-71 operated from Kadena, the A-12 was redeployed to the states and the scope cotton decisions were implemented and the A-12 placed in storage and deactivated effective 1 July 68.

During the above time period several proposals were made and had been undertaken to transfer the control and management of the SR-71/YF-12 to the White Air Force. This was finally consumated effective 1 July 1969 when the logistic support was transferred from the [redacted] to the newly established [redacted]. This in effect was the last action which transferred total management from the black to the white.