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12 June 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with Dr. Hugh S. Dryden, Deputy Administrator, NABA,
11 June

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1. Messrs. Kiefer, [Redacted] and the undersigned met with Dr. Dryden in his office in FOB-6 the morning of 11 June to inform him of recent basic changes in the OXCART cover story, as well as to give him a progress report upon the current status of the OXCART vehicle. Dr. Dryden, who had just returned from an extended stay in Geneva where he was participating in international discussions with the Russians on the peaceful uses of outer space, spent several minutes discussing with us the highlights of his series of meetings, as well as the preliminary results which have come from this conference. As far as we were concerned, his main point was that there was no coordinated effort on the part of the Russians to attempt to attain an effective ban on satellite reconnaissance as a precondition for negotiations either in the legal subcommittee or the technical committee at Geneva. This was even the more remarkable, according to Dr. Dryden, in view of the fact that Blagonravov undertook to deliver a speech on the subject of a satellite reconnaissance ban "under instructions". Minor attempts were made by some of the satellite countries to seek insertion in the general agreement of the conference of a paragraph denouncing satellite reconnaissance, but these did not carry.

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2. Mr. Kiefer then gave Dr. Dryden a brief, oral recapitulation of the technical progress to date in the flight test area of Project OXCART. A set of photographs taken on the day of first flight were shown to Dr. Dryden by the undersigned. [Redacted] then showed Dr. Dryden a copy of the most recent OXCART cover story, relating this action to Dryden's earlier involvement in the [Redacted] which had been proposed for OXCART. Mr. Kiefer also briefed Dr. Dryden on the results of the recent ARGON shot.

3. Dr. Dryden's comments generally were favorable toward the new version. He described it as "much simpler than the original" and in general a good idea. He did raise one point of substance, however, which was that in our fallback position under the new story, we might wish to reconsider the wisdom of identifying the OXCART vehicle as a "satellite launching system" for the simple

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reason that this statement carries the responsibility to explain what kind of satellite this aircraft is capable of launching. In view of the precarious relationship of satellite reconnaissance to world opinion, it was his view that mentioning satellites in the OXCART context was "opening a Pandora's box". He then suggested alternatively that the same end might be achieved by referring to the OXCART vehicle as an ALBM capability, since all nations are interested in increasing the range of air-launched ballistic missiles, and this development, therefore, would be compatible with on-going military research in this area. As was later pointed out by [Redacted] However, use of the ALBM version associates the OXCART aircraft with offensive weaponry to a degree that may well be inconsistent with subsequent disavowal of any hostile purpose for this system. This could also apply to satellite launches under certain conditions, for as Dr. Dryden pointed out, the press might be quick to infer that the OXCART vehicle in a satellite launch configuration was being developed to give this country a covert launch capability for military hardware and/or clandestine satellite reconnaissance.

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4. As a final matter, I expressed to Dr. Dryden the appreciation of NPIC for the use of the color slides taken by John Glenn during his orbital flight and asked him if he would be good enough to look into the question of the availability of similar materials originating in Scott Carpenter's orbital flight where we understand a good deal more had been accomplished technically in the area of stellar photography. Dr. Dryden said he would look into this and would advise me if any useful materials were available from the Carpenter flight.

[Redacted Signature Block]
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Chief, DPD

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