

30 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Carrier borne A-12's

*goc*

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

On Friday, 27 September, Mr. Cunningham reviewed for me the events leading up to the Navy involvement in the A-12 program. It stems from a recent meeting between Kelly Johnson, Mr. Cunningham, and Capt. [redacted] at IAC at which time the question was raised as to the capability of future planned carriers to handle large aircraft. Initially it was not put in the context of the A-12, but eventually reached that stage. [redacted] response that vehicles up to 100,000 lbs. could probably be launched at designated speeds and that gross weights up to 50,000 lbs. and 3.8 g could be arrested elicited the comment from Kelly Johnson that, with some feasible changes which he suggested and which, if applied now, would only mean changes to drawings, the concept would be workable. The entire discussion was placed in the frame of reference of these changes being logical changes for the Navy in that they should keep current with aircraft state-of-the-art to support advanced aircraft regardless of the program. [redacted] requested that Admiral Thatch be briefed so that the specific requests to BuShip designers to study the changes would come from him and would be done without questions.

Subsequently it was requested that Secretary North be briefed because he had to sign a report to McNamara about the A-12 from carriers. However, in talking with Gene Kiefer later, he said he had the document to sign and it was a one page report in effect saying, "there's nothing like A-12's off of a carrier". I asked Gene who wrote the report, and he said he didn't know!

25X1A

[redacted]

NAVY review(s) completed.