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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 DEC 1966

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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The Honorable Charles L. Schultze  
Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Charlie:

Following our 12 December meeting and after examination of the draft memorandum to the President which you handed me on 16 December, I asked my staff to review the problems involved in making the transition from the A-12 to the SR-71. In the process of this review, which is still in progress, new information of considerable significance has been brought to my attention. In particular, this involved data pertaining to SR-71 altitude and range performance which, when compared to the proven capability of the A-12, is of real concern to me in attempting to relate the performance of the SR-71 to my missions. [redacted]

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[redacted] In view of the above, I am reconsidering my previous position and feel that I need additional time to sort out and further verify the facts and examine in detail comparative mission performance characteristics of the two aircraft.

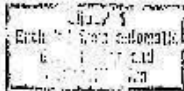
I appreciate the urgency in getting this problem resolved but I am impelled to reassure myself on all aspects of the matter before firming my views. I, therefore, propose that we meet after 1 January to review the pertinent facts and request you not forward a memorandum to the President until after our meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

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