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HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPLY TO ATTN OF: SCPTP

10 OCT 1963

SUBJECT: NF104A Altitude Record Attempt

TO: SCPTP
SCPT
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IN TURN

1. On 1 Oct 63, the Air Force Flight Test Center accepted delivery of the first NF104A Rocket Modified aircraft from the Lockheed Corporation. The acceptance date for the remaining 2 NF104A aircraft is 1 Nov 63.

2. The school Commandant, Col Charles E. Yeager, has suggested that the altitude record now held by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics be broken utilizing the NF104A. The Russians have set the altitude record in an E-166 rocket boosted aircraft and attained an altitude of 114,000 feet. The NF104A is programmed to attain an apogee of 122,000 feet.

3. Col Yeager has proposed that the altitude record attempt be made on the 17th of Dec 63, which is the 60th anniversary of powered flight. The most experienced rocket engine test pilot available is Col Yeager, and it is anticipated that the altitude record attempt be made by him.

4. The Lockheed Corporation is in full support of the proposed attempt. Either the second or third NF104A will be used and no attempt will be made to interfere with the flight test being conducted on the original NF104A which is undergoing Flight Test Center analysis. With over 2 months lead time, it is expected that sufficient Flight Test data, flying safety considerations and recovery techniques will be acceptable to a record altitude attempt.

5. Col Yeager has been requested to submit a formal proposal at an early date. The HQ USAF OPR has concurred on the proposed altitude record attempt and final approval will be solicited from the USAF after receipt of the detailed proposal.

RICHARD G. HORNE, Captain, USAF
Chief, Career Programs
Dir of Personnel Plans & Training
DCS/Personnel

FORGING MILITARY SPACEPOWER