

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~

23 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to [redacted] Akron, Ohio 25X1

1. On 18 November the undersigned visited [redacted] at 25X1
 the invitation of [redacted] of Mr. Bissell's Staff. [redacted] 25X1
 of Goodyear had arranged a day long informal presentation of [redacted] fields 25X1
 of activity for [redacted]. One of the subjects discussed was the [redacted] 25X1
 high altitude blimp proposal.

2. [redacted] personnel that participated in the presentation were Mr. 25X1
 Richardson, a Vice-President, and engineers Don Marco, Bruce Bain, Charles 25X1
 Lephart and Dr. Ross. The projects discussed were (a) a classified project 25X1
 of [redacted] (b) an inflatable 25 foot focal length camera; (c) a high 25X1
 altitude blimp; (d) delivery of personnel by missile and recovery by in-
 flatoplane; (e) drone aircraft that are inflatable; (f) a small light-weight
 teletyper; (g) high resolution radar; (h) re-entry drogue balloon to replace
 drogue parachutes; (i) ablative materials; (j) silent aircraft, both muffled
 and steam powered; (k) solar powered aircraft.

3. The high altitude blimp was discussed only briefly. It is a flying 25X1
 wing shaped, inflatable aircraft of enormous dimensions. Made of two ounce 25X1
 fabric powered by two reciprocating, hydrogen fueled engines, propeller driven, 25X1
 it would combine aerodynamic and static lift to obtain an altitude capability 25X1
 of 100,000 feet above mean sea level. The development program outlined was 25X1
 estimated to cost \$550,000 for a six months study program and another 18 25X1
 months effort to result in two vehicles would cost 5 mega-bucks. [redacted] 25X1
 is attempting to interest the Army in one version of this aircraft without 25X1
 much apparent success. [redacted] stated that he was interested in a vehicle 25X1
 that could remain on station at very high altitude for extended periods.

The proposed [redacted] aircraft would require a take-off roll distance; Mr. 25X1
 [redacted] comment was that an aircraft with a 100 yard wingspan would tax 25X1
 the skill of a pilot and a balloon type, lighter-than-air take-off might be
 more applicable. These comments ended the discussion of blimps.

File: Balloon, Powered

[redacted] 25X1

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