MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Conversation between Colonel Ernest R. Harden (USAF Ret.) and Colonel Thomas G. Shepherd, OJCS/JRC, 11 August 1977

1. (U) The undersigned discussed the origin of the Joint Reconnaissance Center with Colonel "Dick" Harden. COL Harden (then Captain, USAF) in company with GEN Twining (CJCS) briefed President Eisenhower on the RB-47 program. This was due to the standdown of RB-47 missions after the 1 July 1960 RB-47 incident in the Barents Sea. They were proposing to the President to resume operations starting in the Baltic Sea. After the briefing, President Eisenhower told GEN Twining words to the effect, Nate, I want you personally to keep a handle in this, you are responsible.

2. (U) After returning to the Pentagon, GEN Sherrill, Assistant to GEN Twining, discussed with CAPT Harden how the President's direction could be accomplished. The Air Force was subsequently tasked to come up with a solution. Their solution recommended that the Air Force become the DOD executive agent. Navy strongly resisted that approach. Finally, J-2 wrote a paper establishing the JRC as part of J-3. The Secretary of Defense approved this concept on 24 October 1960.

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