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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AUGUST 29, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT:

IF YOU AGREE TO MAKE THIS CALL,
WE WILL HAVE THE MILITARY AIDE
AT CAMP DAVID PLACE THE CALL
SUNDAY MORNING AND PROVIDE YOU
WITH THESE TALKING POINTS.

APPROVE

NRJ

DISAPPROVE _____

TERRY

Put on Sunday schedule.

Call made



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 28, 1974



RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: The flight crew of the Air Force SR-71.
(Major James V. Sullivan, pilot, Major Noel F. Widdifield, navigator)

WHEN: Between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 1.
(The call should go through the U.S. Embassy in London, to the U.S. Pavillion at the Farnborough Air Show where the USAF crew will be scheduled for a post-flight press conference.)

PURPOSE: To congratulate the crew for the effort to establish a new non-stop New York to London air speed record.

VIA: William E. Timmons *BT*

RECOMMENDED BY: Max L. Friedersdorf *M.F.*

BACKGROUND:

1. The United States Air Force crew from Beale AFB, California, will attempt a new speed record for trans-Atlantic crossing between New York and London on September 1.
2. About 15 Members of the House and Senate, including Chairman Eddie Hebert and Mel Price, will be on hand to congratulate the crew.
3. A phone call from the President would be a morale booster for the USAF personnel, and would signal the President's personal interest to Members of Congress.
4. The President's interest in aircraft development dates back to his service on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.
5. The plane will start its flight from its Northern California base, flying non-stop to the United Kingdom. The record attempt will begin 80,000 feet above New York at supersonic speed in excess of 2,000 MPH (MACH 3).

TALKING POINTS:

1. Major Sullivan, Major Widdifield, I congratulate you on your record flight. This is a marvelous achievement.
2. Please say hello to my good friends from the Congress who are in attendance at the Air Show.

- 2.
3. The old record was 4 hours, 46 minutes by a British Royal Navy F-4K. The time for this flight is expected to be 1 hour, 58 minutes--reducing the old record by more than half.

