

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NMP 984462  
By JK NARA Date 10-27-09

[ SECRET ]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: AFDRD-AN

15 DEC 1959

SUBJECT: Variable Sweep Configuration

TO: AFORQ

1. On 6 November 1959 the ARDC made a presentation to the Air Staff on the evaluation of the NASA proposed variable sweep configuration. A copy of the ARDC Briefing Charts was forwarded to AFORQ-TA and AFORQ-AD on 25 November.

2. Some of the conclusions and recommendations, which were concurred in by the Air Staff, were that:

a. No specific Air Force program be established at this time for development of variable sweep applications.

b. Variable sweep applications be considered in the studies of systems where a pay off might be realized.

c. The NASA configuration does not appear to afford improvement in supersonic cruise range or gross weight reduction. However, it does offer possible improvement in subsonic performance for a split speed mission weapon system. Admittedly, the NASA configuration is only a first try at a suitable wing planform for gross data and does not deny that a more refined approach may be substantially nearer the theoretical estimate with the possibility of improvement in the supersonic regime.

3. Final results of the first phase of the Joint U.S.-U.K. study under MWDP should be available in March.

*Joseph W. Howell*

JOSEPH W. HOWELL  
Colonel, USAF  
Directorate of Research & Development

1959 DEC 12 12 15  
0416 TO ADL  
100 TO TA  
001

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR. 6200.10

SS 9930

*Swallow*  
*F-108*

DRD 12-197

[ SECRET ]