MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:  (The White House)

Subject: Howard Hughes' Twin-Motored Bomber.

The United States Army Air Forces has been in close touch with Howard Hughes during the development of his twin-motored bomber. It will be made of plastic, and is of the light bomber type with a gross weight of somewhere from 20,000 to 25,000 pounds.

Mr. Hughes volunteered to build this at his own expense, because he felt that he could build a vastly superior bomber if he received an outline of our desires and went ahead with his own ideas.

He claims, and our engineers do not challenge the figures, that his airplane will make about 430 miles an hour fully loaded.

At present he is trying to sell it to the United States Army Air Forces and we are negotiating to see if we can arrive at a price agreeable to both parties.

H. H. ARNOLD
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.
Commanding General, Army Air Forces

Incls:
Memo. for Gen. Arnold, 7/7/42, Frm The President, incl.
Rpt. concerning the above subj.
MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL ARNOLD

What is there in this?

F. D. R.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
Howard Hughes, airplane designer, builder and holder of most of the world's speed records, will send into the sky at an early date his twin-motored plastic bomber which will fly faster than any pursuit ship in the world. - 485 miles an hour -

Mr. Hughes has put $6,000,000 of his private funds and several years of intensive work and study into the development of this plane, the Hughes Design No. 2. Hughes Design No. 1, which inspired his fast bomber, was the plane in which seven years ago he flew non-stop from Los Angeles to New York in seven hours, twenty-nine minutes. This record still stands and is by far the fastest long cross country flight ever made. Nowhere in the world has anyone yet approached Hughes' record of 2500 miles at a sustained speed of 333 miles per hour.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRIVATE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

July 7, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL ARNOLD

What is there in this?

F. D. R.

Memo unsigned 6/27/42 stating that Howard
Hughes will send into the sky at an early
date his twin-motored plastic bomber which
will fly faster than any pursuit ship in
the world -- 485 miles an hour, etc.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
July 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:  (The White House)

Subject: Howard Hughes' Twin-Motored Bomber.

With further reference to my memorandum of July 8, 1942, subject as above, the following is the result of telephonic conferences with him this week:

Mr. Hughes suggested the following procedure, which we have agreed to: That when the airplane is completed and ready to be submitted to the Government, which is now estimated to be August or September, we will inspect and test the airplane; and, if the Government is sufficiently interested to give him an order for additional airplanes, that we undertake to absorb his development costs. He estimates that he has invested in this airplane, which as yet contains many unproven features from the viewpoint of construction, about three million dollars. If the airplane is of no interest to the Government, he states that he, Mr. Hughes, will expect to take the loss.

H. H. ARNOLD, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)
Date- 3-10-59
Signature- Carl L. Speer