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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Bureau, A-26  
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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

**SECRET**  
By Authority of  
The Commanding General  
Army Air Forces  
26 Nov 44 *BWEL*  
Date Initials

AFRDB

26 NOV 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF ALL STAFF

Subject: A-26 Conversion Program

I. Discussion

1. There will be a substantial surplus of B-25 and A-26 aircraft unless a decision is forthcoming as to the extent of conversion to A-26 aircraft.
2. A firm basis is required upon which to formulate future production plans for the A-26 and B-25 aircraft.
3. Present plans convert all European A-20 groups and all but three B-26 groups (occupational Air Force) to A-26 aircraft by the end of July 1945. This will result in eleven A-26 groups.
4. The FEAF frequently reiterated their non-requirement for A-26 aircraft. It is not felt that their extreme prejudice against the A-26 is justified when the nature of the four A-26b aircraft that were furnished them for operational test is considered. These were four of the first production aircraft and incorporated a number of undesirable features which have since been corrected. It is possible to furnish the FEAF at the proper time A-26 aircraft modified to include an improved vision cockpit and canopy, an eight-gun nose with six internal wing guns, and engines having increased power.
5. Plans are progressing to convert all B-25 groups in other theaters based on the availability of A-26 aircraft.
6. On present allocation and production schedules there will be a surplus of approximately six hundred B-25's as of 1 September 1945, if the war with Germany continues. This surplus will start to accrue in December 1944, unless immediate action is taken to curtail production. There will commence to be a surplus of A-26 aircraft in the latter part of 1945, if the FEAF does not convert to the A-26.
7. It is considered most desirable that the conversion to A-26's be accomplished without exceptions. The A-26 is not only the best medium



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or light bomber in sight, but the conversion will permit standardization of crew training and a simplification of supply problems.

II. Action recommended:

1. That all light and medium bombardment units be converted to A-26 aircraft as rapidly as availabilities permit, in the following priority, and that B-25 production be adjusted accordingly.

- (1) ETO
- (2) MTO
- (3) CBI
- (4) AAFPOA
- (5) FEAF
- (6) North Pacific (maintain B-25's as long as possible)

DONALD WILSON  
Major General, U. S. Army -  
Acting Chief of Air Staff -  
Operations, Commitments & Requirements -