

SEPTEMBER 19, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Preceding their participation in Farnborough International 74 at Farnborough, England, the crew of a SAC SR-71 aircraft from Beale Air Force Base, California, attempted and set a new world speed record of 1 hour and 56 minutes from New York to London.

The previous record of 4 hours and 46 minutes was set by a British Royal Navy F-4K in 1969. The SR-71, with a second crew, returned to its home base in California on September 11th setting another world record of 3 hours and 48 minutes from London to Los Angeles. (There was no previous record.) The SR-71 reached speeds in excess of 2,000 mph (Mach 3+) and altitudes above 80,000 feet on both flights.

Participants

Secretary of the Air Force John L. McLucas
Chief of Staff, Air Force, General David C. Jones
Major General Richard L. Lawson

SR-71 crew members:

New York to London

Major James V. Sullivan, USAF, Pilot (from Wheeler, Montana)
Major Noel F. Widdifield, USAF, Recon.Sys.Off.(from Anderson, Ind.)

London to Los Angeles

Captain Harold B. Adams, USAF, Pilot (from Albuquerque, N. M.)
Major William C. Machorek, USAF, Recon.Sys.Off.(from Jersey City, N. J.)

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