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**Subject:** ARRB Called Leo Janos

CALL REPORT: PUBLICDocument's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 08/09/96 The Players  
Description of the Call Date: 08/06/96Subject: ARRB Called Leo JanosSummary of the Call:I called Leo Janos, as directed, to pursue the possible lead on page 153 of "Skunk Works." During the call, he confirmed that his co-author, Ben Rich, had passed away.He said that Richard Bissell (former CIA DDP) himself was the person who told Ben Rich and him the story about the creation of the fake U-2 manuals for the CIA by Lockheed. He said this interview took place in approximately 1992 or 1993 in Bissell's home in Connecticut. He said the interview was tape recorded, but the tape may have been erased (recorded over), and he does not know where it is. He does not know where most of the research notes are; he said Ben Rich had most of those, and he died of esophageal cancer shortly after the book was published.He said that he now wishes he and Ben Rich had asked more questions about this disinformation scheme; he said that Bissell did not give them any of the names of the four flight engineers who created the fake manuals.He said he was very surprised about how closed-mouthed former Lockheed employees were about the U-2 program, even in the early 1990s. I asked him if he thought that he knew the real speed or maximum ceiling (or even normal operational altitude) of the U-2 after conducting all of his research interviews, and he said "no way-I am sure that the true maximum flight characteristics were not revealed to us by any of the people we interviewed." He said that Ben Rich, his co-author and former Lockheed employee, would refuse to answer completely, or would evasively answer questions of this nature. He said the CIA and USAF vetted their book, and that some material had been removed.Mr. Janos revealed that he had worked for the Johnson White House as a speechwriter, and also had covered the space program for Time magazine in the 1960s. He also said that an interview he conducted with ex-President Johnson in 1973 at the LBJ Ranch was the origin of the "Murder, Inc." quote which Johnson had later requested be redacted, or withheld. END

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