

5-5-49

Mr. Carter:

Presumably Gen. Vandenberg was referring to Boeing's projected B-52 jet bomber, in the attached clipping reporting his Indianapolis speech regarding a "replacement for the B-36."

The general misinterpretation placed on his Indianapolis speech appears to me to be attributable mainly to poor handling of the story by the Associated Press, in its grasping for something to make a flashy lead.

Actually, I am told that the B-52 has progressed only to the wooden mockup stage in the Seattle plant and it will be late 1951 or early 1952, at least, before even the first experimental model will be ready for testing. Regular production would be two years later than that -- unless we got into war.

RW