

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

25 January 2021

John L. Young
Cryptome.org
251 West 89th Street
New York, NY 10024

Reference: F-2012-01814

Dear Requester:

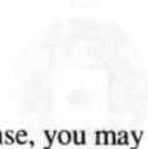
This letter is a final response to your 20 July 2012 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **information or records on CIA Declassification Plans for Fiscal Years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 comparable to those for FY2005 and FY2006 previously released.** We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended. Our processing included a search for records as described in our 30 August 2012 acceptance letter.

With regard to a CIA Declassification Plans for Fiscal Year 2007, we completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located one document that we determined can be released in its entirety. A copy of the document is enclosed.

With regard to CIA Declassification Plans for Fiscal Years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, we did not locate any records responsive to your request. Although our searches were reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents, and it is highly unlikely that repeating those searches would change the result, you nevertheless have the legal right to appeal the finding of no records responsive to your request. As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Please note, contacting CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

To contact CIA directly or to appeal the CIA's response to the Agency Release Panel:	To contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) for mediation or with questions:
Information and Privacy Coordinator Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505 (703) 613-3007 (Fax) (703) 613-1287 (CIA FOIA Public Liaison / FOIA Hotline)	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 (202) 741-5770 (877) 864-6448 (202) 741-5769 (Fax) / ogis@nara.gov



If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact the CIA's FOIA Hotline at (703) 613-1287.

Sincerely,

Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

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7 August 2007

**Documentation of the Central Intelligence Agency
Declassification Efforts Required Under Executive Order 12958,
"Classified National Security Information," as amended**

Executive Summary

In a 3 July 2007 letter, the Director, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) requested information on agency declassification efforts responsive to EO 12958, as amended (the Order). The letter also requested information on the National Declassification Initiative (NDI), the Remote Archive Capture (RAC) program, the Document Declassification Support System (DDSS) and the use of contractors in support of the program. This plan responds to that request. It describes the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) review activities under the automatic declassification provisions of the Order through 31 December 2006 and provides projections through the end of FY 2007.

During this period, the CIA successfully met the first major deadline of the Order, 31 December 2006, by reviewing 36 million pages of textual records. Overall, against all automatic declassification deadlines, the CIA has reviewed 102.5 million pages through 31 December 2006. The CIA projects 4.2 million pages will be reviewed in total in FY 2007. A detailed spreadsheet of page counts is provided as an attachment.

The CIA actively participated in the planning and establishment of the NDI and is a major player in all facets of the program, including quality assurance, remediation, and referral review.

The CIA and the NARA established the RAC program in 1996, and as the executive agent for the program, the CIA has scanned almost three million pages of presidential library documents in support of all agencies. The review of presidential library documents is one of the CIA's highest priorities and significant resources have been devoted to the review of over 675,000 pages to date.

The CIA is the developer and executive agent of the DDSS. In that capacity, the CIA has not only added its own outgoing referral data into the DDSS, but also has been responsible for the training of the user community on the system, the migration of their data into the DDSS, and the administration of the database.

Finally, the CIA is a major user of contractors, largely annuitants, in its declassification program. The CIA uses the expertise of contract reviewers—often with 30+ years of intelligence

community experience—to enhance the quality of the review process. All final declassification decisions, however, are made by Government staff personnel.

In sum, we believe that the CIA response to the automatic declassification provisions of EO 12958, as amended, is meeting both the letter and spirit of the Order. The Agency is playing a leading role in automatic declassification both in terms of its review of Agency records and in its pro-active contribution to the broader ISOO and Community declassification effort.

Introduction

This report by the CIA Information Management Services (IMS) provides the CIA's FY 2007 plan for declassification under the automatic declassification provisions of Executive Order 12958, as amended. This plan is responsive to the letter of 3 July 2007 from J. William Leonard, Director, ISOO. Since 1995, the CIA Declassification Center (CDC) within IMS has been responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the automatic declassification provisions of the Order. In 2003, the amended Order established 31 December 2006 as the first major deadline for automatic declassification. By that date, agencies were to have completed the review of all historically-valuable (i.e., permanent) hardcopy records exclusively containing their equities and created prior to 1982¹. The CIA successfully met that deadline by completing the review of 36 million pages of Agency records.

From 1995 to 31 December 2006, the CDC reviewed a total of 102.5 million pages under the Order, releasing 31.1 million pages. The additional 66.5 million pages above the required 31 December 2006 material include multi-equity records, special media and other material in anticipation of the later deadlines of the Order². The vast majority of the released pages (i.e., declassified and released in full or redacted records) are available to the public at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland. The remainder was either returned to presidential libraries under the RAC program or was declassified in place at other government agency (OGA) archives. The accompanying spreadsheet provides detailed page count information describing our progress against the automatic declassification provisions of the Order, as requested by the ISOO.

The CDC is now focused on: 1) meeting the annual "rolling" requirements of the Order; 2) reviewing multi-equity records as part of the NDI effort; 3) continuing review on special media records to meet the 31 December 2011 deadline; and 4) beginning the re-review requirements under the Order.

¹ Records with equities of multiple agencies are assigned under the Order the automatic declassification date of 31 December 2009 and special media records (e.g., microfilm, movies, electronic records, etc.) are assigned the date of 31 December 2011.

² Prior to the March 2003 amendment, the Order had, for intelligence records, a single deadline for multi- and single-equity and all media types.

A primary goal of the CDC automatic declassification effort has been to make declassified historically-valuable CIA records available to the public. To date, over 31 million pages (or page equivalents) have been released. Of these, over 10 million pages, released in full or with

minimum redactions, have been made available in full-text searchable electronic format in the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST). The CREST is located at the NARA library at College Park. Since its inception in 2000, researchers have printed over 700,000 pages from the CREST system. The CREST products and CREST citations are increasingly finding their way into articles and books on intelligence³. The system has been so popular with the research community that there have been increasing pleas to expand its accessibility beyond the NARA to additional locations and/or via the Internet. The Agency is reviewing with the NARA ways to make the CREST data accessible to federal records depositories and presidential libraries, in a cost-effective manner.

This report also provides additional information requested by the ISOO, describing the Agency's involvement with: 1) the NDI, 2) the RAC program, 3) the DDSS, and 4) the use of contractors in support of the program.

FY 2007 Declassification

During FY 2007, the CDC is concentrating on the following declassification review activities: 1) the "rolling review" of records with an automatic declassification date of 31 December 2007 (i.e., records with a creation date of 1982 or records that are a member of an integral file block dated 1982); 2) the "rolling review" of records with an automatic declassification date of 31 December 2008 (i.e., records with a creation date of 1983 or records that are a member of an integral file block dated 1983); 3) multi-equity hardcopy records dated prior to 1982 with an automatic declassification date of 31 December 2009 (including presidential library records through the Carter administration); 4) file series exempt records⁴ dated through 1960 and subject to automatic declassification 31 December 2010⁵; 5) special media dated prior to 1982 and subject to automatic declassification 31 December 2011, and; 6) previously exempted records⁶ (in whole or in part) dated through 1965 and subject to automatic declassification 31 December 2015.

³ See, for example, Barrett, David M., *The CIA and Congress, the Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2005; Wiener, Tim, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, New York: Doubleday, 2007.

⁴ Other than those exempted due to human source information.

⁵ The CIA Declassification Guide dated 2006 establishes an automatic declassification date for file series exempt records for reasons other than human source 50 years from the creation date or 2010, whichever comes later.

⁶ The CIA Declassification Guide dated 2006 establishes an automatic declassification date for exempt records for reasons other than human source as 50 years from the creation date or 2015, whichever comes later.

In FY 2007, the CDC expects to review about 4.2 million pages and anticipates the release of about 1.5 million pages. Included within that review total are 825,000 pages of textual records from 1982 that are due 31 December 2007 under the "rolling review" required by the Order.

Special Topics

Participation in the National Declassification Initiative (NDI)

The CIA has been an active participant in the NDI since the program's inception, providing recommendations and support for priorities, processes, standards, and database tools and facilitating interagency cooperation. The Agency is a full participant in the Executive Steering Group that sets policy, the Liaison Group that facilitates the application of policy and guidance, and the various working-level elements that do operational planning for the millions of pages accessioned to the NARA. The Agency is committed to achieving the goals set by the NDI for review during FY 2007, and will, subject to the availability of resources, continue to provide the staffing and assistance needed into FY 2008.

The CDC team at the NARA participates in every session of the NDI Quality Assurance Team (QAT), one of several working-level units created to improve the review process. The CIA is the only agency--other than NARA itself--that contributes more than one person to each QAT session. At least two and up to eight CIA contractor or staff reviewers are present for each QAT session.

The CIA team at the NARA also participates on the NDI Joint Remediation Team (JRT). This recently constituted team is charged with reviewing in detail projects that failed the QAT sampling process because of the discovery of an unacceptable number of errors. The CIA has contributed one person to each session and anticipates contributing two people to each JRT session in the future, thereby paralleling the Agency level of commitment to the QAT.

The CDC Team at NARA is a full participant in the Interagency Referral Center (IRC). The IRC is managed by NARA and designed to address referrals in an efficient manner across the declassification community. It is a priority objective of the CDC to consistently staff its four assigned spaces within the IRC, and it frequently hot desks two to four additional reviewers there in order to meet the NARA processing requirements. The CDC officers reviewed 273 projects consisting of 189,000 pages (approximately 6,500 documents) during the first and second quarters of FY07. The CDC team has consistently completed all available processed records within the NARA-prescribed timeline in the IRC, and then has turned its attention to unprocessed material also with CIA equity in the withheld vaults. Subject to resource constraints, the Agency is committed to reaching the referral deadline of 31 December 2009 set by the Order.

The CIA believes that the NDI is an important step in improving quality control in the declassification process. The CDC team at NARA has initiated a series of equity recognition training sessions to improve team members' ability to recognize equities in documents that were not properly referred by the originating agency. Briefings on the US Navy and the Air Force equities have been delivered, and more are being scheduled. These presentations are especially

helpful in teaching the CIA team members about other agencies' equities, and the training will prove useful for working on the QAT and carrying out other document review activities.

The CDC has also supported the NDI by building the NDI Tracker database, an MS Access application that is being used by the NDI staff to track and report on the progress of collections going through the quality review and remediation processes. The NDI Tracker database is based on an extract from the NARA's Master Location Register (MLR) database and allows the NDI staff to build an NDI series by searching/browsing the set of 20,000 MLR entries. The tool provides a capability to build a random sample of boxes for the NDI's survey process, including printing of all necessary worksheets, and recording all data on survey and QA results. In addition, the NDI is being positioned to be the data hub between IRC and NARA databases such as ADDRESS, which records final declassification decisions, the MLR, and the CIA-managed DDSS. Initial capabilities to host the DDSS and the IRC data have been built and routines for importing and mapping electronic downloads from both systems are under development.

Executive Agent for the Remote Archive Capture (RAC) Program

The RAC program is the result of a joint initiative by the CIA and the NARA to accommodate the extensive review requirements for classified historical records from presidential libraries.

With the NARA providing the necessary funding, under the RAC program, the CIA has scanned approximately 2.7 million pages of classified records on-site at the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Ford, and Carter Presidential Libraries for review by over 25 government agencies. An additional 490,000 pages of Nixon presidential material has been scanned at NARA in College Park, Maryland. The CIA plans to begin scanning the estimated 5-6 million pages of Reagan presidential materials in August 2007.

The CIA has deployed *classified* CREST systems to five Presidential Libraries to assist archivists in processing records under the RAC program. These systems are accessible only to cleared archivist personnel and contain the product of declassification reviews of library records. Archivist personnel print out appropriate hardcopy versions of reviewed documents in order to provide public access. Additionally, the Carter Presidential Library received an *unclassified* CREST system in 2005 to facilitate direct researcher access to Carter Library records declassified under the RAC program. Through FY 2006, the RAC program has returned over 585,000 pages to the libraries. The CIA will deliver an additional 70,000 pages of CIA and OGA material by end of FY 2007. The Nixon Presidential Material Staff, scheduled to receive a classified CREST system in first quarter of FY 2008, will receive 30,000 pages of reviewed material at that time.

The CIA continues to redact presidential library material. Redaction, rather than document pass/fail, while resource-intensive, maximizes the amount of information released in this historically valuable records group.

At the CDC, the CIA has equipped a facility dedicated to the support of the RAC program, the standalone State of the Art Information Review System (STAIRS). Using the STAIRS system, other government agencies with equities can perform automated review of presidential library information collected under the RAC program. Currently, 15 government agencies are reviewing presidential library documents in STAIRS and through FY 2006, over 210,000 pages were reviewed by these agencies. In the same period, the CIA reviewed 677,000 pages of presidential library material on its own separate automated system.

Executive Agent for Document Declassification Support System

In October 2003, Congress appointed the CIA as the executive agent for the development, deployment, operations, and maintenance of a Document Declassification Support System (DDSS) to be used by all executive branch agencies for tracking equity referrals. Full operational capability was achieved in January 2006.

The CIA has uploaded into DDSS equity referral data of 11 agencies totaling nearly 70 million pages. The CIA's referral data was uploaded with the first group of agencies in November 2005 and the CIA has remained an active user of DDSS. Additionally, the CIA has trained 135 users from 30 agencies to use the system and 26 of those agencies are actively using the system. The CIA continues to work with the participating agencies to upload additional data, and is making an effort to import data from additional agencies into the DDSS.

Throughout the fiscal year, the CIA's DDSS team has worked closely with the ISOO and the NARA to ensure mutual support and compatibility between the DDSS and the National Declassification Initiative. The CIA continues to work closely with the ISOO to educate executive branch agencies on the role and benefits of the DDSS. Through this effort, the CIA has helped to establish executive branch wide data and process standards as well as assist agencies to improve the quality of their own referral data.

- *First Quarter FY 2007.* The CIA uploaded 8.5 million additional pages of referrals into the DDSS from five agencies: Army, CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA).
- *Second Quarter FY 2007.* The CIA uploaded 12 million additional pages of referrals into the DDSS from four agencies: Army, CIA, MDA, and Navy. The CIA also deployed a new version of the DDSS application. This version enables users to print multiple disposition forms, and improves ease of use.
- *Third Quarter FY 2007.* The CIA uploaded 130 thousand additional pages of referrals into the DDSS from two agencies: the Air Force and the National Geospatial-

Intelligence Agency. The CIA also incorporated NARA's MLR finding aid into the DDSS to assist users in locating referrals in the DDSS down to the shelf level.

- *Fourth Quarter FY 2007.* The CIA will incorporate Department of Energy referral data as well as additional data from the Department of State and the FAA. The CIA also will provide an upload file from its new automated declassification system. The CIA will send a DDSS team to conduct a train-the-trainer session at the U.S. Strategic Command headquarters. Finally, the CIA will deploy a new version of the DDSS application that will include new query screens and other enhancements.

CDC Use of Contractors

The CDC makes extensive use of contractors in its automatic declassification effort. The CDC contract reviewers, almost all of whom are CIA annuitants, are responsible for making review recommendations to the CIA staffers (referred to as "certifiers"). The CIA review process is built around the principle that declassification is an inherently governmental function. Staff certifiers perform a final review on every document and are ultimately responsible for all review decisions by the CDC. The name of the certifier responsible for each document (as well as the names of the contract reviewers providing recommendations) is recorded in the CDC automated declassification system along with the review decision and any explanatory comments. The CDC contract reviewers are trained through a formal training program and through extensive on-the-job training from the experienced senior contractor cadre and certifier team. Contractors also are used in the CDC to provide support for metrics analysis, information technology, production, and operations (including document conversion and indexing). The contribution of a dedicated and skilled group of contractors has been vital to the success of the CDC program.

Conclusion

The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, General Michael Hayden, recently offered the following observations to a conference of historians on the importance of declassification to the CIA:

"As a secret organization serving an open and free society, CIA has been granted an enormous public trust. That's what secrecy is in a democracy. Not a grant of power, but a grant of trust. Each day, we have to earn that trust—as our democratic system demands—by acting as our fellow citizens expect us to: Skillfully, boldly, and always in keeping with the laws and values of our Republic. That's our social contract.

...Of course, we cannot tell the American people everything we do to protect them without damaging our ability to protect them. When it comes to secret intelligence, public sovereignty and oversight reside in the Congress. But there is another window into our activities that's available to the 300 million Americans we serve. It can be found in

the documents we release and the work that you and your colleagues do to place that material in a fair and accurate context. That's why declassification is so important to us.⁷"

The CIA maintains an active, highly sophisticated declassification program to fulfill the requirements of the automatic declassification provisions of EO 12958. This program has made significant contributions to the overall executive branch effort, as exemplified by its leadership roles in the NDI, the RAC program, and the DDSS. In addition, the CIA plays a key role in the External Referral Working Group, the government-wide working group on automatic declassification. The CIA also provides other types of interagency support for declassification including contract support to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Justice and the CIA equity identification training to agencies upon request. In addition, since 1998, the CIA has partnered with the NGA on its automatic declassification efforts. The CDC program fully responds to the letter and spirit of EO 12958 and to the vision articulated by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

⁷ Remarks of Central Intelligence Agency Director Gen. Michael V. Hayden at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference (as prepared for delivery), June 21, 2007