

~~SECRET~~

15 Feb 80

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT : FOIA Request for Information on Tschirim Soobzokov and the

U.S. Army Material Testing Unit #1.
REFERENCE: INS/PLG MEMO DATED 7 FEB 1980, ENTITLED: PROSECUTION OF Tschirim Soobzokov - DOJ REQUEST FOR AGS IS PENDING.

1. At 10:30 on 15 February 1980, a meeting was held in the OGC conference room to discuss the subject request. The following persons attended the meeting:

- [] c/SE/PL Lt. Col. ^{GERARD} Glynn Osburn, OFFICE OF DEPTY CHIEF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS & PLANS, HQS DEPT OF ARMY.
- [] CS/MIL. Cover Br.
- [] CS, FPO
- [] OGC
- [] , IMS/FFIG

2. Background: In September 1979, the U.S. Army received a FOIA request for information on Tschirim Soobzokov from Eugene R. Scheiman, an attorney defending CBS in a civil suit brought by Soobzokov against CBS. The Army returned a "No Record" reply to Mr. Scheiman. In October 1979, Mr. Scheiman again wrote the Army, this time giving biographic data on Soobzokov, including the fact that Soobzokov claimed to have been employed or in contact with the U.S. Army Material Test Unit Number 1, Fort George Meade, Maryland. The request was sent to Ft. Meade with negative results. Mr. Scheiman wrote again, this time including copies of letters and other documents concerning Soobzokov's association with the U.S. Army Material Testing Unit #1 which Soobzokov had submitted with his deposition in subject litigation. (P.S.)

These letters and documents are genuine. Soobzokov was contacted by the Agency under the Material Testing Unit cover, was trained by us at Ft. Meade and retained by us under this cover as a hot war reservist from about December 1955 to December 1959. See reference for additional details). *THIS*

request was sent to the Washington National Records Center also with negative results, but copies of Army file listings were sent Mr. Scheiman to review for possible leads to/information he requested. He returned these lists, with his suggestions for search, to the Army. The Army again conducted a search with negative results. Before responding to Mr. Scheiman for the last time, the Army FOIA office checked the office of the Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence. ACSI files contained one reference to the U.S. Army Material Testing Unit #1 which indicated that it was a CIA cover unit which had been discontinued in 1962. The ACSI office notified Lt. Col. Osburn, the Army Focal Point Officer for CIA cover arrangements

with the Army. Lt. Col. Osburn thereupon collected copies of all the correspondence

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between Scheiman and the Army FOIA office, told them that he would check some additional files and instructed them not to respond to Mr. Scheiman until they heard from him. Col. Osburn then contacted [] of Cover Staff, Military Cover Branch. Cover Staff notified the undersigned who arranged the meeting of representatives of concerned components.

2. At the meeting this morning, Col. Osburn reiterated that there were no traces on Sobzolkov in Army records and that the only information on the CIA cover unit was contained in the ACSI list of discontinued cover units which noted that the U.S. Army Material Testing Unit #1 was a CIA cover unit which had been disbanded in 1962. In addition to other documents, Cover Staff files on the cover unit contained the official U.S. Army document establishing the Material Testing Unit and the official U.S. Army document discontinuing it. It was decided that a copy of each document would be given Col. Osburn for his files and that he would use these documents in replying to Mr. Scheiman. In essence, Mr. Scheiman will be advised that the unit was established in 1956 and discontinued in 1962 and that the Army cannot locate any other documents concerning it. Col. Osburn agreed to send us copies of the official Army FOIA response to Mr. Scheiman.