

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: [redacted] J  
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Review of Documents by Joseph Lynch,  
Department of Justice

1. On 1 May 1980 I met with Mr. Joseph Lynch, trial attorney, Office of Special Investigations, DOJ, at my office for the purpose of permitting Mr. Lynch to review sanitized CIA files concerning Tscherim Soobzokov. Mr. Lynch had visited CIA on two previous occasions to review files on the subject, in July and December 1979. The undersigned was present throughout Mr. Lynch's review. [redacted] J, C/IMS/FPLG, was present in the morning, and [redacted] J, OS/SAG, was present in the afternoon. Mr. Lynch's review began with a three-volume set of materials provided by the Directorate of Operations. Mr. Lynch's immediate reaction was that he did not recognize the file and during the course of his review Mr. Lynch continued to comment that he either did not recall, or had never seen documents in the file. These included a cable, Amman 545, concerning Soobzokov's visa application and the application of another individual; our 16 November 1953 response to a State Department name trace request; and a 9 October 1957 PRQ containing a statement that Soobzokov's misrepresentations to INS could be used as an instrument of control over Soobzokov. I told Mr. Lynch that I could not understand his surprise, as I had been advised that the file he was reviewing was the same file he had reviewed previously. This point was reaffirmed by [redacted] J, who added that the file had been created in December 1977; has not been added to or subtracted from since and was the same file which had been shown to Mr. Lynch previously. In spite of our statements, Mr. Lynch continued to give the impression that he was reviewing some documents for the first time. Later in the day, Mr. Lynch reviewed a portion of the sanitized file prepared by the Office of Security. Again, his initial reaction was that he did not recognize some of the documents in the file. [redacted] J immediately advised Mr. Lynch that he had seen the file, and in fact had requested and was provided excerpted portions of the file.

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2. The sanitized file prepared by the DO contained a number of Office of Security and third Agency documents which had been placed in manila envelopes. At Mr. Lynch's request, I opened each of these and read each document to determine whether the enveloped document contained any reference to war crime activity. After reading the document, I gave a general description of the content to Mr. Lynch. Only one document contained an explicit reference to war crimes activity, this was a State Department document which had been released to Mr. Lynch's office by the Department of State. This letter was shown to Mr. Lynch. Beginning with volume II of the DO material, I initialed each envelope that I opened.

3. Following his review, Mr. Lynch asked that he be provided copies of the following documents from his background use; our 16 November 1953 reply to State's name trace request on Soobzokov; and the 9 October 1957 PRQ which contained the assessment of possible control over Soobzokov. Mr. Lynch also asked that we forward a copy of a State Department memorandum, AMU-56, dated 16 August 1963 to the Department of State to aid in its search for documents. He also asked that we provide for his review a translation of a Russian language statement contained in an envelope in the file.

4. This meeting did not conclude Mr. Lynch's review, and we tentatively arranged for a second meeting to be held on Tuesday, 8 May at 1000.