

23 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Howard C. Berkowitz

1. Mr. Berkowitz states that he is a member of the Washington Chapter of the RIPON Society. He is undertaking a study of information access control systems of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The results of this study are to be published in the RIPON Forum. Mr. Berkowitz also believes that the study may result in legislation which would be introduced by Congressman Esch (?). The President of the Washington Chapter of the RIPON Society is the administrative assistant to this Congressman.

2. Mr. Berkowitz has met with Department of Defense officials on this subject. His conversations with them to date have been conducted on an unclassified basis. He alleges that he knows a considerable amount about compartmented systems such as TK which he has obtained at cocktail parties and in the course of his military service with the U. S. Navy. He also claims to be familiar with the activities of the U. S. intelligence community as a result of some course taken at American University. Frankly, I was not impressed by Mr. Berkowitz's discretion and feel that he should not be given unlimited access to information.

3. In the course of our discussion I proposed to Mr. Berkowitz that he be treated as an historical researcher. This will require that his project be approved by the DCI, that he be cleared at the TS level and that his notes and article be subject to review. Mr. Berkowitz agreed to this although I am not certain he understood what I said. He did volunteer the information that he had had psychiatric counsel in his youth but that this had not prevented him from getting a DOD TS clearance. Mr. Berkowitz was also advised that the clearance process would take some time and that most of the conversations and briefings which he desired would be on a classified basis. It was suggested that I initiate his education process by providing him with copies of the types of documents which this Agency issues through DOCEX.

cc: OLC
OS/SSD/EAB
IG

23 October 1973

Mr. Howard C. Berkowitz
DDPC Systems Support Branch
U. S. Labor Department
GAO Building
441 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20210

Dear Mr. Berkowitz:

I am forwarding to you samples of the types of documents which we are issuing through DOCEX. These documents are available to subscribers to that service through the Library of Congress and are not available from the Agency directly. In addition you will find the necessary forms to be completed for the historical research clearance. Although the form for the National Agency Check Request stipulates from the 18th birthday or the past 15 years whichever is shorter, we do need the information for the past 15 years.

When you have completed the information, why don't you give me a call on IDS Code 143, extension and we can get together to discuss where we go from here.

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Sincerely,

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Enclosures: 8

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