



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1155

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10 APR 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COORDINATOR,
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: The Lansdale Papers

In 1981 the late Major General Edward G. Lansdale, USAF (Retired), sought to donate a personal collection of his papers, consisting of classified and unclassified material, to the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. The Hoover Institution contacted the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which in turn notified the CIA and the Department of State. A meeting was held which resulted in a letter, of July 31, 1981, signed by the Director, Security Plans and Programs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), being sent to the Hoover Institution stating, among other things, that government agencies would review material from the Lansdale Papers deemed sensitive, with the intention of forwarding all declassifiable material to the Hoover Institution, and retaining still sensitive material in government files as a unit. The letter stated further that the nonreleasable material would be reviewed again periodically by DoD, State, and CIA. The review of the material began after the dispatch of the letter, and lasted until 1983. The releasable material was sent in three installments, the last being sent on July 18, 1983. It was stated in the cover letter that approximately 3 cubic feet of material were deemed too sensitive for declassification and release by the interagency task force that reviewed the material, but that this material would be reviewed again in 5 years. The nonreleasable material was retained in the secure spaces of the Declassification and Historical Research Branch of my Division. Your action officer for this case in 1981-83 was who retired and now resides in Hawaii.

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As it is time for another review of the Lansdale material, which would involve considerable time and resources of DoD, State, and CIA, I propose that the nonreleasable material be transferred to the Hoover Institution. My reasons are as follows:

All of the Lansdale Papers should be in one place. The Hoover Institution is a cleared Top Secret facility and can properly safeguard material which is not releasable to the public. Ample precedent exists where policy makers have donated their papers to Presidential Libraries, cleared Government or

other facilities, such as the Hoover Institution or Library of Congress. I know of no case where the donated material such as this is not homogenous.

It is expected that should they wish to do so, the Hoover Institution will have much less trouble sending the material out for review than would the government agencies concerned. When the nonreleasable material was retained, the integrity of the files from which it was removed was maintained and would have to continue to be maintained for another government review, which would prove logistically burdensome. Hoover, on the other hand, would have the luxury of putting the material in chronological order which will provide the added benefit of quickly identifying duplicate copies of documents.

Finally, since the Lansdale material was involved in a fire, a large number of the nonreleasable documents are charred around the edges, and smell strongly of mildew. It is expected that the Hoover Institution would make better copies of the documents and the collection would be enhanced thereby.

Your views as to the transfer of this material are requested as soon as possible. My action officer in this matter is Mr. Brian V. Kinney, 695-5154/5155 for any questions.



H. D. Neeley
OSD Records Administrator

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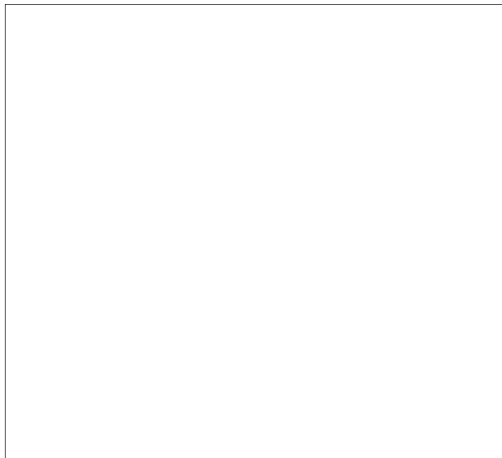
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PERSONAL EYES ONLY
Mr. John Wright
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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26 January 1989

Mr. Charles G. Palm
Associate Director and Archivist
Hoover Institution on War, Peace and Revolution
Stanford, California 93405-6010

Dear Mr. Palm:

In connection with our historical research program, we would like to send [redacted] who is working with our staff, to the Hoover Institution next month to look at your holdings of the papers of Charles T. R. Bohannon (Lt. Col. U. S. Army), and Edward Geary Lansdale (Maj. Gen. USAF). We tentatively plan for [redacted] to arrive in California on 8 February in order to spend approximately a week working on these papers, if this is convenient for you and your staff.

Alan Thompson of the National Archives has been good enough to give us information on the nature of your holdings from your list of military collections. I note that some nine boxes of Colonel Bohannon's papers, and perhaps some of General Lansdale's as well, are closed until declassified. Since [redacted] has a Top Secret clearance, and access approvals for a variety of codeword material, I would like to arrange for him to have access to this classified material. If you are agreeable, I can have his clearances certified to you in whatever manner you require.

If I can provide further information about [redacted] proposed visit, I hope you will write me here, or call me at [redacted] I shall be very grateful for any help you can give us.

Yours sincerely,

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J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief Historian

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