

DRAFT

SSCI OVERVIEW

19 March 1985

QUESTION AREA: General

QUESTION. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed the CIA Information Act providing the Agency relief from the requirement to search and review certain operational files in Freedom of Information Act cases. The DCI, in an earlier exchange of letters with Senator Durenberger, had agreed to establish a new office to promote the voluntary release of declassified files that were most likely to be of interest to historians and others.

A. What steps have been taken to establish this new office?

ANSWER. In his letter of 4 October 1983 to Senator Durenberger, Director Casey indicated that if the Congress was willing to provide the resources he was prepared to institute a new program of selective declassification review. In that same letter he expressed some uncertainty as to where such a program would be placed organizationally within the Agency. Subsequently, it was determined that there already existed in the Directorate of Administration's Office of Information Services (OIS) the experience and capability to conduct the program in collaboration with the Agency's Chief Historian.

For your information, the Classification Review Division in OIS had ^{supervised} conducted ^{an} the extensive systematic declassification review of OSS

material from 1977-1982. OIS has been working ~~in concert~~ with the Chief Historian to develop not only the voluntary program discussed in the exchange of correspondence between Sen. Durenberger and DCI Casey but also to develop the report to the Congress due on 1 June 1985 as required by the Central Intelligence Agency Information Act of 1984. In this connection, we have already had extensive conversations with ~~The~~ Archivist of the United States, who has selected three ^{prominent} historians to provide counsel ~~and advice~~ concerning the feasibility of conducting systematic review for declassification and release of CIA information of historical ~~value.~~ ^{value.} The Archivist, the three prominent historians and representatives of the Library of Congress will be meeting with CIA officials on 18 and 19 March 1985 for a comprehensive discussion on this *subject.*

B. What guidelines have been provided to the new office?

ANSWER. Pending the consultative meeting of 18 and 19 March 1985 tentative procedures have been developed for conducting the Historical Review Program. Tentatively, we expect to concentrate our efforts on files of the greatest historical interest and are most likely to result in the declassification of useful ^{amounts of} information. We intend to begin with the Agency's oldest records not only because they can be expected to produce the most releasable material but also because we hope to conform as closely as feasible to the regular

procedures followed throughout the U.S. Government for transferring permanent records to the National Archives.

As a first step, in June 1984 the CIA and ^{the} National Archives ^{and} Records Service (NARS) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the transfer of some 250⁰ cubic feet of World War II OSS records in CIA's custody ~~and~~ ^{the} transfer began, ~~and~~ ^{on} 11 June 1984 the National Archivist opened for research the first 194 cubic feet increment of ~~those~~ OSS operational records. By March 1985 we have already transferred 600 cubic feet of OSS files, ~~but~~ ^{have already been transferred} we have found that the Agency can review, prepare and transfer these files faster than NARS has been able to receive, process and open them to the public. Our two agencies are cooperating closely, ^{however,} to maintain the transfer pace. ~~It~~ ^{at the current rate} ~~it~~ may nevertheless be late 1986 before all the ~~the~~ OSS records are open to researchers.

Our next oldest records are those of CIA's post war predecessor organizations, ^{the} Strategic ~~Service~~ ^{Services (SSU)} Unit and the ~~CIA~~ ^{CENTRAL Intelligence} Group ^(CIG) covering the ~~which~~ ^{which existed} ~~the~~ ^{during the} period 1 October 1945 to 18 September 1947. We have already taken steps for the review of these records so that in due course we can transfer those that are declassified to the National Archives. As we next move to select records from the files of CIA proper, since 1947, we hope to release historically significant documents that will make

CIA material available as to State and Department of Defense Department are available, up to the 1960's. *is as that of the Departments of State and Defense*

Our procedures will ensure participation by and coordination with *agencies* those ~~components~~ whose records are involved. *Para 11.* We anticipate that the consultants will support the chronological approach described above. We expect them also to make additional suggestions on topics which will be of value to the historical community.

C. What FY 1986 funds are to be spent on this, and at what strength will the new office operate?

ANSWER. [] of non-personal services funds and [] positions from the 1985 budget have been committed to this new program. No funds have been requested for non personal expenses in the 1986 budget but personal services monies to support the [] positions are included. [] positions have been assigned to the Historical Staff; [] to the Office of Information Services.

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The Office of Information Services has been working with the Chief Historian to develop the Agency's new Historical Review Program, which responds not only to the commitments DCI Casey made in his 4 October 1983 letter to Senator Durenberger, but also to the related concerns on which the 1984 CIA Information Act requires him to report to Congress by 1 June 1985. In this connection, we have already had extensive conversations with the Archivist of the United States, Dr. Robert M. Warner, who has selected three distinguished historians to consult with the Agency, as required by the CIA Information Act, "on the feasibility of conducting systematic review for declassification and release of Central Intelligence Agency information of historical value." We shall attach biographical data for the three consulting historians, Professors John Lewis Gaddis, Richard W. Leopold and Gaddis Smith, who will join the Archivist and the Assistant Librarian of Congress for Research Services, Dr. John C. Broderick, in meeting with us (and at lunch with Mr. Casey) to discuss CIA's new Historical Review Program, on 18 and 19 March 1985.

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As a first step, in June 1984 CIA and the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (copy attached) concerning the transfer of some 2500 cubic feet of World War II Office of Strategic Service (OSS) records in CIA's custody. The transfer began on 11 June 1984, when the National Archives opened for research the first 194 cubic feet increment of these OSS operational records. By March 1985 NARS had accessioned approximately 600 cubic feet of OSS files from CIA. The transfer of a collection of this size is a large undertaking for both CIA and NARS, and the two agencies are cooperating closely to maintain the transfer pace. The pressure has probably been heavier on NARS, since an OIS team at CIA had already spent some four years reviewing these records for declassification before this transfer began. It may be late 1986 before all 2500 cubic feet of these OSS records are open to researchers.



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