

16 October 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CHRAC Meeting of 8 October 1996

1. The Community Historical Review Advisory Committee (CHRAC) met on 8 October 1996 in the Ames Building in Rosslyn. The meeting began with a series of presentations. First, Kay Oliver, Chief of CSI's History Staff, updated the Community on the status of DCI's Historical Review Panel. The Panel advises on a variety of issues, including historical research topics, but recently has focused almost exclusively on declassification issues.

2. At its meeting in August, the Panel endorsed a "comprehensive review" approach to declassification as opposed to a "targeted" approach and asked that a master plan for declassification be developed. State reported that its panel also opposes a targeted approach. DoD reported its panel recently completed its recommendations and that they have been published.

3. One of the duties of the Panel is to advise the CHRAC on topics for historical declassification. CSI plans to fully brief the Panel at its next meeting on the Community's historical declassification program.

4. Mike Warner from the CSI's History Staff then led a discussion of archival integrity. Next, Scott Koch from the CSI's History Staff and [redacted] discussed the role of historians in the declassification review process.

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5. The meeting then focused on ongoing business related to the Community's declassification effort:

- The DCID on "The Intelligence Community's Historical Review Program" still has not been promulgated. The Director of CSI will be meeting with the Associate Executive Director for Intelligence Community Affairs this month to resolve any problems and get the DCID finalized.

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- The conference on "The State of the Intelligence Community's Historical Declassification Program", held at the National War College on 13 September, went well. About 100 people attended and the post-conference remarks were quite positive. Copies of Mr Podesta's speech, delivered at the conference luncheon, were passed out to interested Community representatives.
- A House and Senate Conference Committee recently approved funding for the Intelligence Community's automatic declassification programs for FY97 [redacted] [redacted] This funding is for CIA, DIA, NRO, and NSA. Funding levels were put into individual Agency budgets, rather than amalgamated as a line item in the Intelligence Community's budget.

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6. Finally, a long discussion was held about developing a coordinated Community plan for historical declassification. It was decided that the IC should proceed with a plan that incorporates both the "comprehensive review" approach, advocated by the HRP, and some "targeted" subjects. Specifically, the Community decided to consider reviewing the following records for declassification:

- Front office files of the Directors as suggested by the HRP.
- Finished intelligence on the former Soviet Union as suggested by the HRP.
- Bay of Pigs.
- and, the Korean War.

A special meeting will be held at CSI on 21 October at 1430 to coordinate and discuss these possible projects. Please call [redacted] if you plan to attend [redacted]. In addition, the Community will consider drafting a proposal at some later date to request special funding and staffing for a large effort on reviewing materials for declassification on the Viet Nam war.

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7. A second meeting will be held at CSI on Wednesday, 23 October at 1000 to discuss issues related to the declassification

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**of satellite and airborne imagery-related materials--including
declassifying follow-on systems to CORONA. Please call [redacted]
if you plan to attend.**

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8. The next meeting of the CHRAC is tentatively set for mid-November. Please call if you have items you wish placed on the agenda.

[redacted]

Chairman

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