

18 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: Meeting with E. Alan Thompson,
Director, Records Declassification Division, NARS

1. On 16 February 1982 Mr. Thompson came to this office to discuss several issues, primarily the declassification review of 1950-54 Department of State records. Mr. Thompson provided us with a copy of the memorandum of agreement between State and NARS (see attached). He requested that we consider as particularly sensitive the information about the percentage of financial support provided by State in this contract. He advised that they hope to start the review on the 5th of March or as soon as possible within the following two weeks. They plan to apply about 25 people to the effort, dividing them into two teams. State will provide one person to work with NARS throughout the review: at any given time State's expert on the geographic area then being reviewed. They will commence with documents concerning, respectively, Central America, and Korea, China, and Southeast Asia, assigning one team to each of the two major areas. They have selected these areas as the first to be reviewed because they feel that they will receive the most attention from researchers. As the teams complete one part of the world, they will then move on to another. The Near East and Europe will be reviewed toward the end of the effort. The review of NATO materials is seen as a particular problem because of the current lack of clarity and understanding as regards the authority of each member nation to release NATO information. Unclassified materials will probably receive a cursory review. Mr. Thompson feels that they will be able to proceed through the classified material at a rate of approximately 50 pages per hour or 2,000-4,000 pages per team per day. He encouraged us to provide reviewers to join them in this task.

2. Mr. Thompson provided us with a copy of the Truman Library shelf list just compiled. He asked that we review the list for sterility of its contents. (I had received a call from Brenda Reger, NSC, who had also received a copy of this shelf list, and who suggested that we coordinate our response to the Truman Library.)

State Dept. review completed

NLC Review Completed.

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3. Mr. Thompson then expressed his concern regarding the security of his area where the declassification review of the State Department records would be undertaken. He is troubled by the possibility that discussions of classified material may be able to be overheard. He is also concerned about the outside possibility that someone may have attempted to bug the phones to pick up such conversations. He also raised the question about the usefulness of having a secure phone installed in his office for coordination of matters concerning the review with State Department and ourselves. He was obviously looking to us for help in this regard, and I advised him that I would take up the matter with my superiors and our Office of Security. (I subsequently discussed this issue with DD/IS, who suggested that Mr. Thompson submit a letter to us describing his concerns, and I have so advised Mr. Thompson.)

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Attachment:
Memo of Agreement

Distribution:
Orig - Liaison w/NARS w/att
1 - Liaison w/State w/att
1 - D/IS w/o att
1 - Chrono w/o att

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
and the
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

- PROJECT TITLE: Declassification Review of 1950-54 Department of State Records.
- SCOPE: This project will consist of a review for declassification of the most historically significant portions of the 1950-54 central decimal files of the Department of State (R.G. 59) and of the 1950-54 records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State (R.G. 84) appraised as having continuing value. The declassification reviewers will use the 1950-54 systematic review guidelines developed by the Department of State for use by the Archivist of the United States. The reviewers will also use applicable guidelines issued by the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Justice and by the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council. The project will require careful page-by-page review using all guidelines currently available and coordination for final declassification determination with responsible agency experts.
- OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this project is to declassify and prepare for release to the public the historically significant portions of the 1950-54 Department of State records. This objective should be accomplished on or before January 1, 1986.
- PRODUCTS:
1. Declassified 1950-54 Department of State records arranged, reboxed, and labeled.
 2. 1950-54 Department of State records identified as requiring further national security protection segregated, arranged, reboxed, and labeled.
 3. A listing of the record items requiring continued national security protection.
 4. 1950-54 Department of State records accessioned into the National Archives.
- ORGANIZATION: The project will involve National Archives and Records Service (NARS) and Department of State personnel. The project will be organized as follows:
1. NARS: The Project Director will be:
Edwin A. Thompson
Director, Records Declassification Division
Office of the National Archives, NARS
- The NARS project team will consist of a supervisory archivist/project coordinator and at least two archivists/team leaders and approximately 22 archives technicians/reviewers.

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2. Department of State: The Project Liaison Officer will be:

John R. Burke
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Classification/Declassification
Department of State

The Department of State will assign one or more staff members to work with the NARS project team on an as needed basis.

NARS

RESPONSIBILITIES: The National Archives and Records Service agrees to:

1. review the most significant portions of the 1950-54 State Department Records (R.G.s 59 and 84) using all current applicable guidelines for declassification,
2. coordinate with agency experts the review of record items not declassifiable under those guidelines,
3. participate with Department of State personnel in revising the systematic review guidelines provided by the Department of State,
4. prepare for researcher use the record items which have been declassified,
5. segregate, arrange, and rebox the record items determined by competent agency authority to require continued national security protection,
6. prepare and submit to the Department of State a listing of the segregated items,
7. provide professional archival direction, supervision, and space necessary to accomplish the review,
8. employ, train, and maintain a staff of approximately 25 qualified persons to conduct the review, and
9. accession the 1950-54 records of the Department of State into the National Archives upon completion of this project.

DEPT. OF STATE

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Department of State agrees to:

1. maintain high level management support for the project,
2. provide the project liaison officer with sufficient resources to complete the project,
3. issue, maintain and keep current the Department of State guidelines necessary to accomplish the objective, and

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4. respond to Freedom of Information Act and mandatory review requests on the 1950-54 records of the Department of State until completion of this project.

SCHEDULE: This project will begin on or about March 1, 1982, and should be completed by March 1, 1986.

TERMINATION: Either party may terminate this agreement upon 90 days notice in writing. Outstanding financial or other obligations incurred by either party will be settled to the extent of the commitment at the time of termination.

COST: The Department of State agrees to reimburse the National Archives and Records Service in the amount of \$162,000 in F.Y. 1982. At the commencement of each fiscal year, beginning in F.Y. 1983 and thereafter through F.Y. 1986, both parties will agree to a funding limitation for the project.

BILLING: The Department of State will furnish NARS with required fiscal citations, the correct billing address, and one signed copy of this Memorandum of Agreement.

NARS will bill the Department of State quarterly based on the funding limitation. Standard Form 1080, Transfer of Funds, will be used for billing purposes.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

By James W. Moore
James W. Moore

By Thomas M. Tracy

Assistant Archivist

Assistant Secretary

Title: for the National Archives

Title: Bureau of Administration

Date: 12-10-81

Date: 2/9/82

Please provide the following when Agreement is approved:

Funds Citation: 1920113-1035-200018-201600-25810

Agency Billing Address: A/CDC
Room 1239, New State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520 ATTN: Sam Brushel

AUTHORITY: This Agreement is made under the authority of the Economy Act, approved June 30, 1932, as amended (31 U.S.C. 686).