

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: DDA		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: DDA/IRO <u>        </u> <i>22 Sept 86</i> <i>EXA/DDA</i> <u>        </u> <b>29 SEP 1986</b> ADDA <u>        </u> <b>22 SEP 1986</b> DDA <u>        </u> <b>22 SEP 1986</b> DDA Reg.  <i>D/OIS received a copy.</i>		
FROM: C/DCI/HS		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

Executive Registry

86-3613X/1

8 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: J. Kenneth McDonald  
Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT: Proposal for OSS Documentary History from Acting  
Archivist of the United States

REGISTRY  
70-7

1. Attached is a letter from Dr. Frank G. Burke, Acting Archivist of the United States, concerning a possible OSS documentary history, and a proposed reply for your signature.

2. Background. In July Mr. Alan Thompson, an Acting Assistant Archivist, informally asked for my views on a National Archives proposal (rising out of a staff member's conversation with you after your address to SHAFR on 25 June) to ask CIA to publish a documentary history of OSS under the sponsorship of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). After talking with Mr. Thompson, I concluded that although an OSS documentary history is an admirable project, it would not be in the Agency's interest to undertake it for the following reasons:

A. NHPRC experience indicates that an OSS documentary history would cost several million dollars, and probably require at least five years to get the first volume into print. Since the NHPRC cannot make grants to Federal agencies, its sponsorship would offer CIA only official recognition, guidance and standards for the project.

B. The National Archives now holds almost 4000 cubic feet of OSS records, including 1000 cubic feet of R&A records from the Department of State and nearly 3000 cubic feet of operational records from CIA. To sift through this massive collection, then edit and publish selected documents in a series of volumes, would require a sizeable specialized staff. We could not expect to find such trained personnel in CIA or among its annuitants. It would take a good deal of time to recruit the staff needed, and CIA could probably not use their special skills productively once they completed the OSS project.

2. Recommendation. For the reasons noted above, I do not believe that you need meet with Dr. Burke or his staff on this matter. I would therefore recommend that you sign the attached letter.

J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - Executive Secretary
- ~~1~~ - DDA
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# National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

AUG 8 1986

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Executive Registry

86- 3613X

Dear Mr. Casey:

I remember with pleasure our luncheon of last year and the discussion of the future disposition of CIA records. I am pleased that your staff is proceeding with the work of reviewing for declassification and preparing the early records of the agency for transfer to the National Archives.

Recently, Mary A. Giunta, a member of the staff of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), reported to me on your representation at the annual meeting of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. She told me of her conversation with you afterwards about the possibility of a documentary history on the work of the OSS during World War II. I am extremely excited about the possibility of such a project. In my role as chairman of the NHPRC, I would like to meet with you and your staff regarding the possibility of establishing such a project.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the latest annual report of the NHPRC. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

FRANK G. BURKE  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosure

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

86-3613X/2

18 SEP 1986

Dr. Frank G. Burke  
 Acting Archivist of the United States  
 National Archives and Records Administration  
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Burke:

Thank you for your 8 August 1986 letter, and for the copy of the latest annual report of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) that you enclosed. It was a pleasure last June, after my talk to the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, to meet Ms Mary Giunta, who told me about the possibility of the NHPRC sponsoring an OSS documentary history based on the records that we have transferred to the National Archives.

I am glad to know more about the excellent work of the NHPRC, and I hope that some suitable institution will undertake an OSS documentary history as part of your publication program. Although I have to report that I see no prospect of a CIA role in such a project, I shall ask our Chief Historian, Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald, to consult with your staff about your plans. We would, of course, hope to offer our encouragement and cooperation to any institution that the NHPRC selected to undertake this major editorial enterprise.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey  
 Director of Central Intelligence

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