

EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE ROUTING SHEET

1. CONTROL NUMBER: CRES-288/98 2. SUSPENSE DATE: 28 Sept 98

3. SUBJECT: Letter to State/INR

4. ORIGINATION OFFICE: DI/CRES 5. DATE: 28 September 1998

6. PURPOSE: (U) To obtain DCI signature on letter to State/INR

7. SUMMARY: Response to State/INR regarding KH-7/KH-9. (b) (1) (b) (3)

8. COORDINATION:

9. RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

10. DATE IN	11. ROUTE TO	12. ACTION (Check a Box)	13. NONCONCUR REASON	14. DATE OUT
	TITLE C/CRES - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		
	TITLE ODI Registry - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		
	TITLE LOGGED ADDI - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		
	TITLE DDI - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		9/28
28 SEP 1998	TITLE ExRegistry - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		
998-09-2	TITLE Ex Dir - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI	1998-09-29	3:16 9/29/98
29 SEP 1998	TITLE DDCI - [redacted] SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FYI		
30 SEP 1998	TITLE DCI - 7D56 SIGNATURE [redacted]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR <input type="checkbox"/> FYI		

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~~SECRET~~

CRES 98-288

THE DIRECTOR ~~OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE~~
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

30 September 1998

Mr. Edward G. Abington
Acting Assistant Secretary of State for
Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Edward:

[redacted] Thank you for your letter of 15 September in which you expressed the Department's views regarding potential foreign sensitivities to the availability of declassified KH-7/KH-9 historical imagery, particularly that produced by the KH-9 [redacted]. I also note your recommendation that I postpone a final decision on KH-9 [redacted] [redacted] film declassification until the Intelligence Community has a chance to assess [redacted]

[redacted] As you know, the issue of blanket versus selective declassification of imagery from these systems is currently under consideration in the Historical Imagery Declassification Review (HIDR) process chaired by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. I will certainly take the views you have conveyed to me into consideration when the HIDR completes its deliberations and forwards its recommendations to me.

Sincerely,

George J. Tenet

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Mr. Edward G. Abington

DI/CRES/[redacted] ldg/[redacted] (28 Sept 98)
s:di\cres\ [redacted] letter-DCI response to State
INR.doc
cres-288/98

Distirbution:

- Original - Addressee
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - EXDIR/CIA
- 1 - ADCI/CM
- 1 - DDS&T
- 1 - OIM/IRG
- 1 - NIMA/Tom Wolfe
- 1 - C/CRES
- 1 - DC/CRES
- 1 - C [redacted]
- 1 - C [redacted]
- 1 - C [redacted]
- 1 - Executive Registry
- 1 - DDI Registry
- 1 - [redacted] Chrono

~~SECRET~~



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]
~~DECL~~ 1.6X1

September 15, 1998

Dear George,

The Department supports the ongoing Historical Imagery Declassification Review that the Intelligence Community (IC) has undertaken at your direction. INR has coordinated this issue broadly within the Department with a focus on overall USG policy on foreign access to space remote sensing and the management of foreign reaction to the broader availability of high quality satellite imagery.

We believe that all the KH-9 mapping camera film can be declassified immediately without risk. We also believe [redacted] the KH-7 film may be declassified except [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

This would offer several advantages. We would be able to confirm that no unanticipated extreme foreign reaction would cause the USG to restrict commercial imaging [redacted]

[redacted]

Mr. George C. Tenet
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

CLASSIFIED BY: Edward G. Abington, INR A/S, Acting
REASON: 1.5 (c) (d)

~~SECRET/~~ [redacted]

-2-

declassification of KH-9 photography over such areas. [redacted]

[redacted]

Blanket declassification, as was done with the KH-1-6, is the easiest to defend because it does not presume that foreign governments should incur security risks that we are not prepared to incur ourselves. [redacted]

[redacted]

The Department believes that the advantages of blanket declassification should be carefully weighed in considerations given to withholding any KH-9 photography to avoid US security risks. Of course, if imagery is identified that truly presents a continuing threat to US national security, the Department will support withholding such imagery from declassification. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Blanket declassification, if national security issues are not, in fact, compromised by such action, would allow us to take a consistent position that this photography does not, on balance, pose a security threat that outweighs its benefits to civil applications and public research.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Abington

Edward G. Abington, Acting Assistant Secretary

~~SECRET/~~ [redacted]

(CLASSIFICATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED)

SECURE FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM

DATE: 9-24-98

SENDING SECURE/FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER:

RECEIVING SECURE/FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Transmittal Form and Coversheet, if applicable) 4

FROM:

(Name / Office / Extension)

SUBJECT: _____

TO: (ADDRESSEE / ORGANIZATION / OFFICE / EXTENSION)

1.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
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9. _____
10. _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

RELEASING OFFICIAL: _____

(PRINTED NAME)

(SIGNATURE)

RECEIVING STATION USE ONLY

Please receipt for material by entering time of receipt/signature and transmit back to sending station.

DATE / TIME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

~~SECRET~~

SEP 21 1998

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT ROUTING SLIP

	ACTION	INFO			ACTION	INFO
DCI		X	11	OPA		
DDCI		X	12	DDA		
DDCI/CM			13	DDI		
ADCI/MS			14	DDO		
EXDIR/CIA		X	15	DDS&T		X
CHMN/NIC			16	OIM/IRG	X	
IG			17	DS&T/IRO		X
GC			18	ADCI/Coil		X
COMPT			19	NIMA/Tom Wolfe		X
OCA			20			

SUSPENSE DATE: 9/27/98

DOCUMENT NO: ER 98-3774

Contact regarding suspense items.

COORDINATION/ROUTING:

OIM/IRG to take the lead in preparing response with DS&T/IRO and coordinate as appropriate for DCI signature.

SUMMARY:

Letter from Edward G. Abington, Acting Assistant Secretary of INR regarding KH-9 photography. Abington argues that the advantages of blanket declassification should be carefully weighed and consideration given to withholding any KH-9 photography to avoid security risks.

Date: 17 September, 1998

Received in ER: 16 September, 1998

Action Officer:

ER due 9/27
probably make it
28th which is Monday
Good luck

