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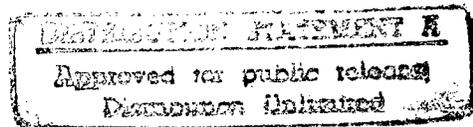
FIFTH SESSION OF THE
DoD HISTORICAL RECORDS DECLASSIFICATION
ADVISORY PANEL

OPEN SESSION

National Archives
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Room 410
Washington, D.C.

Friday, April 11, 1997

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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Executive Order 12958, Classified National Security Information, requires automatic declassification of historical files over 25 years old. The Department of Defense (DoD) historical Records Declassification Advisory Panel (HRDAP) was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act as a subcommittee to the Historical Advisory Panel. The HRDAP charter is to recommend information and topic areas for early declassification priority, that would be most valuable to historians. The HRDAP is chaired by Dr. Alfred Goldberg, OSD Historian. Six civilian historians and the historians from the military services and JCS comprise the panel. The transcripts for the open sessions are prepared by a contract transcription service.			
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1 PANEL MEMBERS:

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DR. ALFRED GOLDBERG, CHAIRMAN

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PROF. ANNE CAHN

5

PROF. MELVYN LEFFLER

6

PROF. ERNEST MAY

7

PROF. MARC TRACHTENBERG

8

DR. ROBERT WAMPLER

9

PROF. GERHARD WEINBERG

10

WILLIAM EPLEY

11

WILLIAM HEIMDAHL

12

BG DAVID ARMSTRONG

13

BENIS FRANK

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BERNARD CAVALCANTE

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. STARK: If I can have your attention,
3 please. Once again, my name is Gail Stark, I'm acting as
4 the Executive Secretary. Let me just read a couple of
5 administrative announcements.

6 First of all, all the proceedings today are
7 being recorded. The panel members who are the people at
8 the table up here will be identified by name in the
9 minutes.

10 Others, if you have anything to say, you will
11 be identified as observer, unless you state your name at
12 the beginning of your statement when you make it.

13 Verbatim transcripts are available on the
14 Internet. Attendees who come here may request an
15 executive summary or verbatim transcripts or e-mail. We
16 do not have the ability in this room, to take phone
17 messages. There are pay phones out in the building
18 somewhere, I'm sorry that I don't know exactly where.
19 And the next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

20 DR. GOLDBERG: All right.

21 This is an open session of the panel. The
22 morning session was a closed session. The first item of

1 business here this afternoon is a recap of the morning
2 session. I don't want to devote four hours to that so
3 I'll try to give it to you in four minutes or less.

4 The morning session was devoted chiefly to
5 briefings from OSD, JCS, and the National Archives and
6 Records Administration and a briefing on the report of
7 the Moynihan Commission, the secrecy briefing with which
8 most of you are acquainted, I'm sure.

9 The briefing did stimulate a great deal of
10 discussion on the part of the panel. A lot of questions,
11 a lot of issues and problems were raised.

12 The panel spent some time discussing what the
13 major problems and issues were and how they should be
14 addressed in the report that the panel makes to the
15 Secretary after each meeting.

16 We found a number of issues to be of particular
17 importance and these concern primarily the possibility of
18 securing some kind of delegation of authority for
19 declassification between elements of the Department of
20 Defense and between Defense Department elements and other
21 agencies. We recognize this is very difficult to
22 accomplish. We do think it's important. We expect to

1 make that recommendation.

2 We feel that it is important that more ready
3 access, earlier access to declassified records be
4 afforded researchers and the public here in the National
5 Archives, that it often takes a very long time for
6 declassified records to become accessible, and that this
7 is something that should be addressed and it should be
8 made possible for researchers and the public to get at
9 these records soon after they're declassified instead of
10 having to wait years sometimes to see them.

11 We also thought that we ought to recommend that
12 more up-to-date guidance for declassification be given to
13 NARA and to the different elements of the Department of
14 Defense, that some of these guidelines are out of date
15 and some are close to date. But this could be of
16 considerable help, not only to the National Archives and
17 Records Administration, but to the individual agencies.

18 These guidelines perhaps ought to be directed
19 to specific periods. It's probable that it would be
20 difficult to get guidelines for the whole period from
21 1947 to 1975. We're willing to settle for something less
22 than that, perhaps 1947 to '60 or '65.

1 And we also decided it's necessary to put these
2 recommendations into a broader context, one which would
3 pose the major problem of this declassification process
4 under the executive order, namely making the most
5 effective use of the resources which are available and
6 where necessary and desirable, urging the use of the
7 additional resources, the provision of additional
8 resources including the increased use of reserve officers
9 on active duty.

10 It seems to us that these were the most
11 important things to take up at this point and to
12 recommend to the Secretary. It's possible to overdo this
13 sort of thing, of course. All we can do is make the
14 recommendations. We can urge them on the Secretary and
15 staff, and if we can do that in person, also we hope to
16 do that sometime in the future.

17 I think that gives you the gist of what was
18 discussed and decided on this morning.

19 If you have any questions, we'll be glad to
20 respond. If there are any observations or questions on
21 this or other matters that are possibly within the
22 province or within the purview of the commission, feel

1 free.

2 MR. DAVID: Jim David.

3 DR. GOLDBERG: We can always rely on you, go
4 ahead.

5 MR. DAVID: Jim David, Air and Space Museum.

6 Was there an actual representative of the
7 National Archives here talking about the process in
8 question?

9 DR. GOLDBERG: Yes, Mike Kurtz spoke and he had
10 Jeanne Schauble with him and they did answer questions.
11 And they also promised that they would be back at the
12 next meeting with a great deal more information than they
13 were able to provided this time, very specific
14 information in response to specific questions.

15 MR. DAVID: Did they discuss at all this
16 morning how priorities are established for processing of
17 the records, whether it's P-95 accession of 7-1/2 million
18 pages roughly of OSD records from actually the late '30s
19 through 1963 or Department of Labor records?

20 DR. GOLDBERG: They did discuss specifically
21 RG330, which was the focus of a good bit of discussion
22 and the fact that they are putting emphasis on that.

1 The chief point that emerged, I think, was that
2 they're planning to do accession and declassification at
3 the same time. They merged the two functions, the two
4 organizations, so that they hope to do declassification
5 the same time they're accessioning of the records.

6 MR. DAVID: What, for example -- or how will
7 that impact the OSD records that came over as part of the
8 P-95 project or roughly 9 million pages of pre-64 OSD
9 records that you are still at WNRC and that had been
10 reviewed, but which the National Archives has no claim or
11 accession --

12 DR. GOLDBERG: Haven't they been moved --

13 MR. DAVID: No, I know they haven't been moved.
14 And Michael Kurtz has said that they have no claim on
15 accessioning those roughly 9 million pages.

16 But I'm just wondering how they're combining
17 those two divisions or offices or bureaus, whatever
18 exactly is occurring, is going to impact on these sorts
19 of questions?

20 (1) Processing classified collections that have
21 been reviewed for declassification and are already at the
22 National Archives and; (2) Accessioning from WNRC agency

1 directives, et cetera.

2 DR. GOLDBERG: Well, he spoke of 6,500 boxes
3 from OSD of which 2,700 still remain to be declassified
4 or have classified materials in them that have to be
5 looked at for declassification.

6 As to the rest of your questions, I don't think
7 I can answer them. The best we can do is put them to him
8 and ask for an answer at our next meeting.

9 If you would like to give me some of your
10 thoughts in writing on this, I will be glad to pass them
11 along to him.

12 MR. DAVID: I'll send you copies of
13 correspondence, as well.

14 DR. GOLDBERG: With him?

15 MR. DAVID: With him.

16 DR. GOLDBERG: You have already corresponded
17 with him?

18 MR. DAVID: Correct.

19 DR. GOLDBERG: And you have put these questions
20 to him before?

21 MR. DAVID: Correct.

22 DR. GOLDBERG: And you want answers. All

1 right, I'll ask him for answers.

2 MR. DAVID: Thank you.

3 MR. HEIMDAHL: May we ask what his answers were
4 previously?

5 MR. DAVID: I met with Jeanne Schauble and
6 several other people early last fall on these questions
7 and basically was told that there were no plans to
8 process the roughly 7-1/2 million pages of pre-64 OSD
9 records that came over from WNRC to College Park in early
10 '96, part of the P-95 project.

11 I was also told at that same time that there
12 were no plans for the National Archives to accession the
13 roughly 9 million pages of pre-64 OSD records that were
14 also reviewed between '81 and '96, and that is still at
15 WNRC.

16 MR. HEIMDAHL: And those have been offered to
17 NARA? Had OSD offered those records to NARA?

18 MR. DAVID: I can't tell you whether they've
19 been formally offered. As I understand the process, it's
20 essentially the National Archives' call pursuant to some
21 -- I don't think as I understand them, records retention
22 disposition schedule, but some sort of different schedule

1 with respect to accessioning records versus appraising
2 them.

3 MR. HEIMDAHL: Your schedule establishes when
4 the records, being that they're historically permanent,
5 can be offered to the National Archives. But the agency
6 still has to undertake the formal procedure to offer them
7 to the National Archives. And we don't know if those
8 have been offered or not.

9 They reason I ask you that, and I'm not trying
10 to press the point, I don't think we can indict NARA if
11 indeed OSD has not actually formally offered these
12 records to the National Archives.

13 DR. GOLDBERG: Brian, do you have any
14 information on this?

15 MR. KINNEY: No, I just declassify things we
16 don't do the records management.

17 MR. DAVID: In any event in December, I wrote
18 Mr. Kurtz on these two particular points and got the same
19 answer, no plans to process what's already at College
20 Park and no plans --

21 DR. GOLDBERG: What's the difference in the
22 nature of the records that were sent to College Park and

1 those which were retained at Suitland?

2 MR. DAVID: There's roughly a ten-page list
3 that the Project Branch at College Park has listings, all
4 the accessions of 330 records came over in early '96.
5 And I can't figure out how those particular accessions
6 were chosen over other pre-64 accessions which are still
7 at WNRC.

8 For example, all the Secretary of Defense
9 subject and decimal files from '56 through '63 are still
10 with WNRC.

11 From '47 through '55 they've been at the
12 National Archives for some years.

13 Now those accessions weren't chosen to be
14 transferred to National Archives in early '96 versus some
15 of the accessions that were, I don't know; I can't answer
16 that.

17 DR. GOLDBERG: But you have asked the question?

18 MR. DAVID: Correct.

19 MR. HEIMDAHL: I would get the impression that
20 records that are already at College Park that came in
21 early '96 are the ones to which Mike Kurtz was referring
22 this morning, that these are now being given some

1 priority in terms of this newly reorganized combination
2 of processing and declassification. And he'll give us
3 the status. He indicated that at our next meeting, our
4 September meeting, in terms of exactly how much is being
5 done to address those records.

6 MR. DAVID: It is my understanding from talking
7 with Jeanne Schauble on several occasions at the National
8 Archives, and Mr. Kinney, you can correct me if I'm
9 wrong, there's virtually no authority to review OSD
10 records. And OSD viewed all the pre-64 records between
11 '81 and '96. Some of those records were at the National
12 Archives. The bulk of them were at WNRC.

13 MR. HEIMDAHL: Still in DOD -- or OSD custody
14 at that time.

15 MR. DAVID: At WNRC, yes.

16 MR. FRANK: The ones that went over to College
17 Park, weren't they now National Archives property?

18 MR. HEIMDAHL: Right, that which was
19 transferred to NARA.

20 MR. DAVID: Yes, they have legal custody and
21 control. But that doesn't mean they have
22 declassification control.

1 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: It was precisely this
2 issue that the recommendation Dr. Goldberg just commented
3 on was designed to address, because we were concerned
4 when we heard the report that there is Archives authority
5 to declassify in the OSD material. But it is based on
6 guidelines from the early 1980s.

7 And we were concerned that an enormous amount
8 of time and effort was being wasted applying guidelines
9 which antedate the end of the Cold War and which antedate
10 the currently effective executive order. And it was
11 precisely with this concern in mind that we were
12 recommending that a, shall we say more current set of
13 guidelines be provided to the National Archives so that
14 as they apply criteria to the OSD records in their
15 custody, hopefully, they can move forward a little bit
16 more usefully.

17 DR. GOLDBERG: The Archives has been exercising
18 limited authority to declassify records, OSD and others.
19 But it is limited and it is limited, in part, by the
20 guidelines and limited also by certain -- probably by a
21 certain timidity about making decisions on what seem to
22 be very sensitive material.

1 It is a matter, as we discussed also this
2 morning, of getting much better coordination between OSD
3 and the Archives and the other elements of DOD and still
4 other agencies, and other agencies that we feel need a
5 much closer relationship with the State Department. So
6 that we can help each other in speeding up
7 declassification by giving greater authority to
8 declassify.

9 MR. DAVID: So the National Archives is
10 reviewing to the limit of its ability?

11 DR. GOLDBERG: They have had a declassification
12 office for many, many years there and they have not been
13 sitting there doing nothing. They have been
14 declassifying a lot of documents.

15 MR. DAVID: My question is, are they reviewing
16 the roughly 7-1/2 million pages?

17 MR. HEIMDAHL: From what Mr. Kurtz has implied
18 to us, yes, they are.

19 MR. DAVID: They're not simply processing --

20 MR. HEIMDAHL: No, the two elements go hand in
21 hand according to what he explained to us.

22 But as Professor Weinberg pointed out, the

1 guidance that Jeanne Schauble's people -- the guidance
2 being used dates from 1983 and our concern, then, is that
3 it should be more current guidance reflecting the current
4 executive order, the current status of the world, so to
5 speak, since the end of the Cold War.

6 I think if Mr. David would furnish us his
7 correspondence to us perhaps Cynthia could distribute it
8 before our next meeting and then we might actually ask
9 more exact questions on the matter.

10 Obviously, we were not aware of the difference
11 between what was accessioned by NARA and what still might
12 be remaining at Suitland, assumably it is still in the
13 custody of OSD.

14 DR. GOLDBERG: It's possible they didn't know
15 either.

16 BG ARMSTRONG: If you get the correspondence,
17 could you give Kurtz a copy because we would like to
18 address these issues?

19 DR. GOLDBERG: Kurtz has a copy.

20 MR. HEIMDAHL: But let him rejoinder.

21 BG ARMSTRONG: Tell him that we're going to be
22 raising these issues when he gives his briefing.

1 MR. HEIMDAHL: Right, that's a good idea

2 DR. GOLDBERG: I think he knows that from the
3 tenor of the discussion this morning. He knows we had a
4 lot of questions to ask and that he has to come up with a
5 lot of answers and he did offer to do so.

6 MR. DAVID: There's two additional documents
7 that the panel might want to see. One I faxed, among
8 other things, to Cynthia Kloss the day after our last
9 meeting but, obviously, it didn't get distributed and
10 that is the ten-page list that's available through the
11 Project Branch at College Park. And that was each
12 accession of these OSD records that came over in early
13 '96.

14 The second list is roughly a 300-page list that
15 Sandy Major prepared at my request last fall listing all
16 the OSD records reviewed by OSD between '81 to '96.

17 DR. GOLDBERG: That helps explain why they
18 haven't gotten a lot of declassification done over there.

19 MR. DAVID: Pardon?

20 DR. GOLDBERG: That helps explains why their
21 declassification slowed down over there.

22 MR. FRANK: The fact that one of the documents

1 is 300 pages.

2 MR. DAVID: 300 pages.

3 MR. FRANK: That's the reason Cynthia Kloss
4 didn't distribute it to us.

5 MR. DAVID: Pardon?

6 MR. FRANK: That is probably the reason that
7 Cynthia Kloss did not give it to us.

8 MR. DAVID: She hasn't gotten that.

9 DR. GOLDBERG: That's another reason.

10 PROFESSOR CAHN: Is that available on the Web?

11 MR. DAVID: I don't believe so. Mr. Kinney?

12 MR. KINNEY: No, it is not.

13 DR. GOLDBERG: What did you do with it besides
14 sending it to Cynthia?

15 MR. DAVID: Those 300-page lists I haven't sent
16 to anybody. The 10-page list I got from the Project
17 Branch at College Park I sent to Cynthia, among other
18 things.

19 DR. GOLDBERG: What do you propose to do with
20 the 300-page list?

21 MR. DAVID: That was just a way for the panel
22 to compare what was reviewed, went to College Park and

1 what's still at WNRC.

2 DR. GOLDBERG: How do you account for the one
3 being so much greater than the other in size?

4 MR. DAVID: The 300-page list has a lot more
5 information in it. The 10-page list is very abbreviated
6 and very small print.

7 DR. WAMPLER: What's your sense of the ratio of
8 the individual accessions on the 300-page list versus the
9 ten-page?

10 MR. DAVID: Roughly, in early '96 as part of
11 the P-95 project 3,160 feet of 330 records came from WNRC
12 to College Park. And looking at the 300-page-plus list,
13 I calculate roughly somewhere close to 4,000 cubic feet
14 of 330 records from the pre-64 period still with WNRC.
15 That's roughly 9 million pages or so.

16 DR. GOLDBERG: The silence is getting very
17 heavy.

18 MR. NORRIS: Robert Norris.

19 I notice that almost everybody has a copy of
20 the Moynihan report in front of them and I wonder if that
21 was a subject of the conversation this morning or any
22 conclusions were drawn from it that would be helpful?

1 DR. GOLDBERG: We had a briefing on it.

2 BG ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, who are you?

3 MR. NORRIS: Robert Norris.

4 BG ARMSTRONG: What do you do?

5 MR. NORRIS: I work at the Natural Resources
6 Defense Council.

7 BG ARMSTRONG: Okay.

8 MR. FRANK: One of the authors briefed us on
9 it. It was very good and we're looking forward to
10 reading it.

11 DR. GOLDBERG: Well, you ask what the effect
12 was. I think the reaction of the panel was very
13 favorable to the report.

14 The briefer stressed the importance of the
15 front end of the process as well as the back end, that is
16 the importance of which we all know, importance of
17 controlling classification to begin with, which in the
18 long run, of course, will ease the problem of
19 declassification.

20 And that is one of the major burdens of the
21 report. And there is a whole chapter on declassification
22 in the report also.

1 I think, in general, we were in agreement with
2 most of the recommendations of the commission and we are
3 hopeful that something will come of it. We were told by
4 the briefer that there was legislation pending, that
5 there would be hearings on legislation derived from the
6 recommendations of the commission. Just what the
7 contents of the legislation is, we don't know and what
8 its fate will be is indeterminable. It takes a long time
9 to get through congressional committees.

10 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: I was going to add that
11 one of the things which was stressed in the briefing was
12 one of the central recommendations of the commission.
13 It's implied in what Dr. Goldberg just said. That is to
14 say the concept that while executive orders may be
15 required, surely will be required to govern details,
16 procedures and so on, but that one of the major things
17 called for was congressional legislation on the subject
18 of classification, declassification in general. And the
19 second concept, it seems to me both stressed in the
20 report and in his briefing this morning, was that
21 classification needs to be seen as a part of the life
22 cycle of the document as well as eventual

1 declassification.

2 And I think most members of this group find
3 both of these concepts, that is to say that there needs
4 to be framework legislation, and that documents should be
5 looked at not just simply now that they have been
6 stamped, but at some point other things are going to
7 happen to the life cycle concept. It seems to me that
8 people are generally in agreement on that.

9 I added the concept that I personally have long
10 believed and argued for decades that in practice this
11 issue is not going to be resolved unless the life cycle
12 concept is interpreted to mean that security
13 classifications are valid, only if the cycle is in the
14 original classification.

15 That is to say, the classification says, for
16 the sake of argument, top secret, secret 1 January 2015,
17 confidential 1 January 2020, unclassified 1 January
18 whatever. And then, of course, people can either speed
19 it up, or on examination, conclude that the dates have to
20 be moved back.

21 But that in practice, unless large numbers of
22 documents declassify themselves, and others require by

1 their classification a review for possible extension,
2 then in practice, the application of the life cycle
3 concept will never make any change in the existing
4 system.

5 That is not, although I discussed it at some
6 length with members of the Commission, that is not in
7 their report as a recommendation, which in effect, leaves
8 that issue to executive orders where it has repeatedly
9 been at least three times, if I'm not mistaken, in the
10 past but, because there were always exceptions which
11 tended then to become the rule, has not in practice had
12 any effect. If it had, we would not now have one and a
13 half billion 25-year-old documents which await somebody's
14 looking at them.

15 DR. GOLDBERG: Any other comments?

16 (No response.)

17 DR. GOLDBERG: This is a fortuitous occasion.
18 We will be able to conclude the meeting earlier than
19 scheduled, if there are no more comments or questions.

20 Yes?

21 MR. DAVID: I have to prolong it a little bit.

22 First of all, did the National Archives

1 representatives discuss specifically the large numbers of
2 very high level Air Force records that the Air Force has
3 reviewed for declassification the last couple of years
4 now that they're at College Park and are also not
5 processed?

6 DR. GOLDBERG: No.

7 MR. HEIMDAHL: That really wasn't part of our
8 request to them in the sense that the NARA
9 representatives -- we had asked them to address OSD
10 records, 330.

11 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: We have heard about the
12 Air Force project, if I'm not mistaken, Dr. Goldberg, at
13 a prior session.

14 DR. GOLDBERG: Yes, we had a briefing.

15 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: In fact, was that not one
16 where the employment of a substantial number of reserve
17 officers had led to major progress and it was one of the
18 things that has led this committee to suggest that that,
19 on the basis of experience, suggests that other segments
20 of the Defense Department might benefit from the exact
21 same procedure?

22 DR. GOLDBERG: To speak directly to your

1 question, we did not focus on the Air Force records. We
2 did focus on the matter of accessibility to records that
3 have been declassified, and the fact that it takes so
4 long, often, to get them made available.

5 As I indicated earlier, that was discussed.
6 That was certainly discussed by Kurtz in his remarks. We
7 did urge that attention be paid to this matter. We did
8 talk about -- he made the point of enormous difficulty
9 involved in doing this. The resources to be needed in
10 order to go through boxes and to remove the declassified
11 materials or the classified materials, whichever way they
12 chose to go. That is extremely difficult and this was
13 the chief reason these materials are not made available
14 sooner.

15 Once again from his standpoint, it's a matter
16 of having the people and the time to do it.

17 MR. HEIMDAHL: Priorities.

18 DR. GOLDBERG: And other priorities, yes.

19 MR. DAVID: The second question deals with the
20 numbers of pages declassified by DOD components in FY-96.

21 In the Moynihan Commission report there's a
22 table in the latter part of the report for those numbers

1 for selected DOD components. Are the numbers of the
2 remaining DOD components available now?

3 MR. HEIMDAHL: I think you are referring to the
4 table on page 74 where it characterizes the agencies and
5 indicates what's been done and whatnot.

6 We did not get any reports on that because we
7 didn't ask for reports, but we will in September.

8 DR. GOLDBERG: During the course of the
9 discussion, we did raise this matter of getting reports
10 on DOD components on what they have reviewed and what
11 they have declassified.

12 MR. DAVID: The reason I ask that is because I
13 heard Cynthia Kloss at the DOE open this advisory panel
14 meeting last fall, used the figure that during FY-96 DOD,
15 as a whole, declassified 68 million pages.

16 And I asked her where can I get a breakdown of
17 that 68 million pages. And she said I'd have to go to
18 ISOO,. And I go to ISOO and they said it'll be in our
19 FY-96 report. Well, ISOO's FY-95 report didn't come out
20 until September '96.

21 DR. GOLDBERG: So you have to be patient.

22 MR. DAVID: Well, I --

1 MR. HEIMDAHL: But only until September when we
2 get our report.

3 MR. DAVID: It might be later than that. But
4 what we're talking about here is just basic numbers. And
5 if I remember correctly, this table does not list the
6 number of pages reviewed. It only lists the number of
7 pages declassified.

8 But for every individual DOD component, how
9 many pages were reviewed, how many pages were
10 declassified?

11 DR. GOLDBERG: This table does give the number
12 of pages reviewed.

13 PROFESSOR CAHN: To be reviewed.

14 MR. HEIMDAHL: And then the pages to be
15 reviewed for declassification and finally pages
16 declassified.

17 MR. DAVID: Those are the total numbers,
18 correct?

19 MR. HEIMDAHL: Right.

20 MR. DAVID: I know it lists the number of pages
21 declassified in FY-96. I don't believe it lists the
22 number of pages reviewed but not declassified in FY-96.

1 But in any event, I just don't understand why
2 these figures aren't available. I know ISOO hasn't come
3 out with its FY-96 report, but God knows when this is
4 going to occur.

5 Just to get some basic idea, for example, DIA,
6 what has DIA done?

7 MR. HEIMDAHL: You may have to write to the
8 individual agencies.

9 DR. GOLDBERG: We have asked for reports from
10 the services in OSD and JCS on this. That is, the number
11 of pages reviewed and the number declassified, and we
12 expect to get these reports in the future.

13 MR. DAVID: Cynthia Kloss got those numbers
14 last fall, then to ISOO for inclusion in ISOO's FY-96
15 report.

16 All I'm asking is that permission be granted so
17 the public can find out what these figures are.

18 DR. GOLDBERG: I see no reason why it shouldn't
19 be. I'll certainly speak with her about it.

20 MR. HEIMDAHL: I would like to take one second
21 to go back to what Mr. David said about the Air Force
22 records at College park.

1 What you address is a problem with the National
2 Archives that the records have been, if you want to say
3 reviewed, not necessarily totally declassified, they're
4 transferred, or they're accessioned by NARA. But they
5 are then not processed and made available for public
6 review.

7 All of us in most DOD agencies recognize this
8 as a problem. I might say since NARA has no one here to
9 defend itself, and I've done this in previous meetings,
10 NARA's staff is very small and is very overextended.
11 We're trying to be patient from the Air Force standpoint
12 and we would like to see those records made publicly
13 accessible, but because we recognize NARA's difficulties.

14 Kurtz did point out to us this morning that in
15 order to focus on Record Group 330 and what we're
16 interested in, it's a matter of priority. In other
17 words, you shift people from handling the Air Force
18 records or Navy records, or Department of Labor records,
19 whatever, to addressing these concerns related to OSD
20 records.

21 So, I'm just saying NARA's manpower and
22 resources are finite. And they can't be expected to be

1 handling everything simultaneously and make everything
2 totally accessible instantaneously.

3 MR. DAVID: No, I understand it is a huge job.
4 They have to re-box, they have to put labels on the
5 boxes, they've got to make sure all the still classified
6 material is removed, parallel files established.

7 But what I'm still in the dark about is how
8 does the National Archives prioritize their processing
9 responsibility?

10 Because they are, as we all know, they are
11 continually getting records from all agencies, from the
12 Department of Labor to -- I won't say CIA.

13 MR. HEIMDAHL: The Maritime Commission.

14 MR. DAVID: DOD components, et cetera, et
15 cetera.

16 How do they prioritize their processing? Even
17 with completely unclassified Department of Labor records,
18 they still have to re-box, label the boxes, and in
19 instances they have to go through these agency records
20 and look for Privacy Act information, which just throws a
21 whole wrench in the works. It is a huge job.

22 I just don't understand how they prioritize

1 their processing responsibility.

2 DR. GOLDBERG: When you're talking
3 declassification, you're talking about a relatively
4 limited number of agencies in the government. Not all of
5 them have declassified records. Some of them have very
6 small amounts of classified records.

7 So that DOD stands as one of the most important
8 agencies with declassified records, along with State, CIA
9 and NSC and Energy, I suppose, and FBI. Those are the
10 chief agencies with large amounts of classified records.

11 I guess one of the ways you declassify is the
12 pressure that's put on them to do it. And this panel is
13 putting some pressure on them with specific reference to
14 OSD records. And I think that they're probably going to
15 pay still more attention to OSD records in the future
16 than they have in the past, because we are asking for it
17 and I think they would like to be responsive, if they
18 could, within their resources.

19 BG ARMSTRONG: Al, is Mr. Kurtz going to be
20 available to address this particular set of concerns in
21 September?

22 DR. GOLDBERG: Will Kurtz be available?

1 BG ARMSTRONG: Yes.

2 DR. GOLDBERG: He is coming to the next
3 meeting.

4 BG ARMSTRONG: To the open meeting?

5 DR. GOLDBERG: Yes, he promised to come back,
6 remember, by popular demand.

7 BG ARMSTRONG: Yes, I know, but I didn't know
8 if he was going to come to the open session.

9 DR. GOLDBERG: Yes, the whole first day will be
10 an open session. He will be there and I trust we'll have
11 probably some other people giving us reports also, if
12 only what they have accomplished so far in their
13 declassification programs.

14 MR. HEIMDAHL: Considering the questions we
15 asked him this morning, I think he and the staff will be
16 ready to address these kinds of concerns. They probably
17 will be expecting such questions.

18 DR. GOLDBERG: I think they do intend to do a
19 good deal of research in connection with our next
20 meeting. We did ask a lot of questions that will require
21 them to compile information that they apparently have not
22 put together yet.

1 DR. WAMPLER: He also indicated in his
2 statement that he was trying to confirm with us that we
3 thought the high-level OSD Record Group 330 is where we
4 would want them to prioritize, giving me the sense that
5 he was trying to find a way to address our priorities in
6 the processing of the records.

7 DR. GOLDBERG: Of course, there are priorities
8 within priorities. We did discuss briefly, I think, the
9 matter of priorities, what kinds of records should this
10 panel give priority to?

11 Are there other classes of records, other areas
12 that possibly can be given priority?

13 We have had requests here from the public that
14 -- we give priority to prisoner of war records, for
15 instance. People are urging us to do that for Vietnam
16 prisoners, and now for Korea, the Korean War prisoners.

17 This raises important questions, because -- it
18 raises important questions for us, but also raises
19 important questions for the people who are going to have
20 to do the work, namely NARA and DOD components and other
21 agencies, and what kinds of priority should we be trying
22 to establish or recommending?

1 I confess I'm not certain whether we ought to
2 give priority to some of those areas or not, whether we
3 should stick with record groups and say go ahead and do
4 the whole thing from the beginning chronologically or to
5 say focus on those particular areas of this record. I
6 don't think we've worked that out yet.

7 MR. DAVID: That's an important point. In the
8 roughly 7-1/2 million pages of 330 records that went over
9 to College Park early last year, there's large numbers
10 of, for example, Assistant Secretary of Defense
11 controller records. There are even some accessions of
12 transient offices that dealt with this and that, should
13 College Park be spending any time whatsoever processing
14 those versus other types of records?

15 DR. GOLDBERG: Are you saying that the
16 controller records are not important?

17 MR. DAVID: Not at all, I'm saying for priority
18 purposes for processing.

19 DR. GOLDBERG: Well, that's what I'm asking,
20 for priority purposes of processing, you maintain they're
21 not important?

22 MR. DAVID: Not as a matter of top priority.

1 DR. GOLDBERG: At times in the history of OSD
2 they've been almost as important as the records of the
3 Secretary himself. Have you ever worked through them?

4 MR. DAVID: Yes, actually, I have.

5 DR. GOLDBERG: Controller records?

6 MR. HEIMDAHL: And there's probably a
7 constituency out there for those records too, putting
8 pressure on NARA.

9 The fact that the records have been on the OSD
10 records schedule as historically permanent and,
11 therefore, offered to NARA and transferred or accessioned
12 by NARA, would imply they are important records, because
13 NARA checks the -- chops on the records disposition
14 schedule in the course of its formulation.

15 DR. GOLDBERG: In writing the history of the
16 Office of the Secretary of Defense, we have found the
17 controller records to be central, at least for the first
18 15, 20 years at least, we found them to be central to
19 writing the history of OSD. When it comes to overall
20 policy, to strategy, to congressional legislation,
21 executive policy, they have been central to the process.

22 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: At one time, the

1 controller was the place to which one appealed. I know
2 because I have to do it, on behalf of a committee on
3 classification matters. That changed after a while, but
4 for a number of years, the controller was the place where
5 one appealed classification and declassification.

6 DR. GOLDBERG: And that's where people still
7 appeal for money these days.

8 PROFESSOR WEINBERG: That's another matter.

9 DR. GOLDBERG: That is where it comes from.
10 That is where Larry Curry and Brian Kinney are appealing
11 for money now. When they want declassification money,
12 the controller is going to have to say, yes, we have, you
13 can have it.

14 What I'm getting at is that prioritizing can be
15 very difficult. On the face of it, it can seem that some
16 offices are much more important than others. But you
17 can't know unless you are acquainted with the records.

18 MR. HEIMDAHL: Dr. Goldberg, you are more
19 knowledgeable than I on this subject, but I believe the
20 National Archives has an historical advisory committee
21 just like many other agencies. Perhaps Mr. David needs
22 to write to that committee or its representatives. Most

1 of the professional associations, the OAH, the HA,
2 Society of American Archivists have representatives that
3 sit on the NARA advisory committee.

4 Perhaps you need to approach them, if you don't
5 feel you're getting answers from the staff of this
6 agency, then you may need to go through the outside
7 avenue and maybe they'll make it an agenda item on their
8 deliberations, the status of the accessioning of records
9 or the opening of records, not so much the accessioning,
10 the opening of records.

11 DR. GOLDBERG: Another good action is to write
12 to the archivist instead of one of the assistant
13 archivists. He's an activist, he get things done.

14 MR. HEIMDAHL: He's also a politician.

15 BG ARMSTRONG: At the risk of being rude, do we
16 really have any more business to discuss or can we end?

17 DR. GOLDBERG: This is the question I asked a
18 little while ago.

19 Are there any other comments, questions, Mr.
20 Passarella, you're saying no, you don't want to say
21 anything?

22 MR. PASSARELLA: No.

1 DR. GOLDBERG: All right.

2 In that event if there is nothing more, the
3 meeting is concluded.

4 (Whereupon, at 2:47 p.m., the meeting was
5 concluded.)

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