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Description of document: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) meeting agenda and meeting minutes for each meeting of the Community Historical Review Advisory Council (CHRAC) which relates to systematic declassification review 1996-1997

Requested date: 17-April-2021

Release date: 25-August-2022

Posted date: 19-September-2022

Source of document: FOIA Request  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505  
Fax: 703-613-3007  
[Filing a FOIA Records Request Online](#)

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August 25, 2022

Reference: F-2021-01449

Dear Requester:

This letter is a final response to your 17 April 2021 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **a copy of the meeting agenda and meeting minutes for each meeting of the CHRAC (Community Historical Review Advisory Council) which relates to systematic declassification review (all years)**. We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended).

We completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located the enclosed one document that are releasable in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(3) and (b)(6). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.]

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for these determinations. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please explain the basis for your appeal.

In the course of processing your request, we also determined that we received an earlier FOIA request for records on the same subject. Accordingly, we conducted a search of our database of previously-released records and located the enclosed two documents that were released to the previous requester. We hope you find this information useful.

Please be advised that you may also seek dispute-resolution services from the CIA FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies

To contact <b>CIA</b> directly with questions or to appeal the CIA's response to the Agency Release Panel:	To contact the <b>Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)</b> for mediation or with questions:
Information and Privacy Coordinator Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505 TEL: (703) 613-1287 FAX: (703) 613-3007	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 TEL: (202) 741-5770 FAX: (202) 741-5769 / <a href="mailto:ogis@nara.gov">ogis@nara.gov</a>

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Capitos  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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14 May 1996

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Community Historical Review Advisory Committee  
(CHRAC) Meeting(b)(2)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(7)(C)

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 12958, "Classification of National Security Information," The Director of Central Intelligence issued a policy statement on 4 December 1995 directing that a Community Historical Review Advisory Committee (CHRAC) be established. The primary purpose of the Committee is to develop a Community-wide list of topics of historical and scholarly interest to be used to guide the declassification programs of the Intelligence Community. The first meeting of the newly constituted Community Historical Review Advisory Committee was held on 9 May. An updated list of the membership of the Committee is attached (see Enclosure 1).

2. The meeting began with agency representatives introducing themselves and briefly discussing the declassification programs of their home components. This was followed by a discussion of a draft DCI Directive titled "The Intelligence Community Historical Review Program." The DCID establishes the CHRAC, defines the role of the Center for the Study of Intelligence in the historical review process, lays out the functions of the CHRAC and the responsibilities of the Intelligence Community in the process, and explains the role of the DCI's Historical Review Panel vis-à-vis the CHRAC. The DCID was accepted by the Community with changes as outlined in the draft passed out at the table and the addition of the Central Imagery Office(CIO) to the list of members. It will be sent out for final Community approval in the next few weeks.

3. A lively discussion then ensued as to how to develop a Community-wide list of subjects of special historical or scholarly value for declassification. After much discussion, it was decided that agency representatives would vet the subject with the proper officials in their home components. Each is to prepare a memorandum on the subject, with a possible list of topics and any concerns and suggestions, and forward it to [REDACTED] the Chairman of the CHRAC, by 29 May. The memos will be sent out to the CHRAC's membership in advance of the next meeting to serve as the basis for discussion.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

SEP 1999

SUBJECT: Community Historical Review Advisory Committee  
(CHRAC) Meeting

4. The next meeting of the CHRAC is scheduled for 13 June in the Ames building in Rosslyn. An agenda and other information will be forwarded well in advance of the meeting.



Chairman  
Center for the Study of Intelligence

Attachment

## COMMUNITY HISTORICAL REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

List of MembersOrganizationMember

CSI

[REDACTED]  
Director, Center for the Study  
of Intelligence (CSI)

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

CSI

[REDACTED]  
Chairman, CHRAC  
Center for the Study of  
Intelligence (CSI)

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

CIA

[REDACTED]  
Historian  
Center for the Study of  
Intelligence (CSI)

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

DIA

[REDACTED]  
DIA/  
Bolling AFB  
Washington, D.C. 20340

(202)

(202)

(202)

(U) FAX

UPDATED 22 Oct 97  
G/CSIFO/CHRAC/CHRA/CLST.DOC



DIA

[REDACTED]  
DIA/  
Bolling AFB  
Washington, D.C. 20340

(202) [REDACTED]  
(202) [REDACTED]

NSA

Mr. Tom Johnson  
Chief, Research & Writing  
Center for Cryptologic History  
National Security Agency  
E322  
Bldg. SAB 2  
Fort Meade, MD 20755

(301) 688-2336  
9-1-972-2893 (S)  
(301) 688-2342 (U) Fax

FBI

Unit

[REDACTED]  
Historical and Executive Review  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Room 1114  
9th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0007

DoD

[REDACTED]  
Ms. Cynthia Kloss  
Department of Defense  
ODASD (I&S)  
The Pentagon  
Room 3C281

(703) 695-2289  
(703) 695-8215 (FAX)

State

Ken Rossman  
Office of IRM Programs & Services  
Programs and Policies Division  
Room 1239  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

(202) 647-6020  
(202) 647-9419 (FAX)

SSN: 527-62-7810

State

Dr. William Slany  
Office of Historian (PA-HO)  
Room L-409, SA-1  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20522-0103

(202) 663-1123  
(202) 663-1289 (U) FAX

DOE

Dr. Rob Versluis  
Department of Energy/NN523  
19901 Germantown Road  
Germantown, MD 20874

(301) 903-1890  
(301) 903-7068 (FAX)

CIA/

[REDACTED]  
Office of Deputy Director for  
Administration (DDA)

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

[REDACTED]

CIA/

[REDACTED]  
Office of Information Technology

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

[REDACTED]

CIA/

[REDACTED]  
Office of Information Technology

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

[REDACTED]



CIA/

[REDACTED]  
Office of Deputy Director  
for Administration (DDA)

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Community Management  
Staff (CMS)

[REDACTED]  
Community Management Staff

[REDACTED]  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence  
Council (NIC)

[REDACTED]  
National Intelligence Council

[REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Reconnaissance  
Office (NRO)

[REDACTED]  
National Reconnaissance Office  
14675 Lee Road  
Chantilly, VA 22021

National Imagery & Mapping  
Agency (NIMA)

[REDACTED]  
National Imagery & Mapping  
Agency (NIMA)

USAF

[REDACTED]  
Air Force History Support Office  
Research Division  
AFHSO/HQS  
110 Luke Avenue  
Suite 405  
Bolling AFB  
Washington, D.C. 20332-8050

(202) 767-0412 ext. 210

USN

Mr. Raymond Schmidt  
LCDR. Susan Navarro  
CNO (N09N2)  
Bldg. 111, Sicard Street  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D.C. 20388-5381

(202) 433-8842  
(202) 433-8849 (FAX)



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27 June 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Community Historical Review Advisory Committee  
(CHRAC) Meeting

(b)(2)  
(b)(3)

1. The second meeting of the newly constituted Community Historical Review Advisory Committee (CHRAC) was held on 20 June 1996 in the Ames Building in Rosslyn. An updated list of the CHRAC's membership is attached.

2. The meeting began with remarks by [REDACTED] Director of the Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI). [REDACTED] provided an overview of the functions of the Center, emphasizing its ongoing activities in the area of historical declassification. He also pointed out that the DCI's Historical Review Panel has been enlarged and re-energized; it is expected to play a pivotal role in the months ahead in providing guidance to the DCI and the Intelligence Community on systematic declassification issues. The next meeting of the HRP is scheduled for August 1996. [REDACTED] announced that [REDACTED] would brief the HRP on the results of the CHRAC's work and the IC's efforts on systematic declassification.

3. [REDACTED] commented on the draft DCID titled "The Intelligence Community Historical Review Program." Eileen noted that the DCID had been sent out for community coordination. However, she noted that not all agencies have responded and asked that comments be forwarded to her ASAP.

4. [REDACTED] followed with an update of CSI's activities in organizing the IC's systematic declassification effort.

- Parish calls have been made to many agencies to discuss community declassification efforts and the role of CSI. CSI will try to schedule visits with the remaining agencies within the next month.
- D/CSI and [REDACTED] briefed Moynihan staffers on 5 June on CSI's efforts to organize and coordinate systematic declassification efforts within the IC.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

SEP 1999

(2)

SUBJECT: Community Historical Review Advisory Committee  
(CHRAC) Meeting

- The military services have been invited to join the CHRAC. All but Army have accepted the invitation (see list of members enclosed).
- Plans are underway for a one day working conference on systematic declassification to be held in September. CSI will sponsor the conference; information will be sent out to CHRAC members as early as possible in July. Several members felt that special emphasis should be given to presenting the views of outsiders on the IC's declassification efforts.

5. A discussion took place about the best way to proceed as a community on systematically declassifying material of scholarly and historic interest. Opinions varied among agencies. Some representatives stated that topics should be identified and prioritized for declassification; other representatives stated that a bulk process should be followed, such as top down, oldest first. [REDACTED] passed out a proposed method for proceeding that would combine both ideas and give individual agencies considerable latitude to proceed in a way that best fits their needs and file system (enclosed). REPS WERE ASKED TO REVIEW THE DRAFT AND PROVIDE COMMENTS TO CSI NO LATER THAN COB 8 JULY.

6. No date was set for the next meeting of the CHRAC. It is anticipated that a meeting will be scheduled sometime in August prior to the HRP's planned session. An agenda and other information will be sent out well in advance of the meeting.

[REDACTED]

Chairman

Center for the Study of Intelligence

Attachments:

- A. Membership List
- B. Community Workplan

Proposed Community Workplan for Systematic Declassification

1. The Intelligence Community should, in general, proceed on a topical basis to declassify subjects of historical/scholarly interest.

A. The order of march during the next 12 months will be as listed below in the order provided.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Participating Agencies</u>
(1) Analyses (finished intelligence) on former USSR	CIA*; DIA; State; military services; DOE
(2) VENONA	CIA*; NSA*; [REDACTED] CIA
(3) Cuban missile crisis	DIA; NSA; State
(4) Bay of Pigs	CIA*; NSA; State
(5) <del>Vietnam War</del> (1960-1970)	All agencies

B. Work will also proceed collectively on satellite and air reconnaissance systems in the following order:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Participating Agencies</u>
(1) CORONA	CIA*; NSA*; NRO*
(2) Other systems in chronological order	As appropriate

C. Working groups will be established on each subject that will meet at the call of the designated group leader.

2. Agencies unable to participate in the topical approach should declassify records using a system best suited to the way their material is filed, e.g. oldest first and top down. Included here would be the military services, State, and OASD (C<sup>3</sup>I).

\*Already begun

## Proposed Community Workplan for Systematic Declassification

3. At the same time, some agencies should proceed individually on topics of interest to those organizations.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Agency</u>
(1) 1954 Covert action in Guatemala	CIA
NIEs on the Soviet Union	CIA
DCI records	CIA
Covert action operations approved for declassification	CIA
(2) Other agencies to fill in as appropriate.	



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.

(b)(6)

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.

SUBJECT: CHRAC Meeting of 8 October 1996

- 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] (b)(3)  
[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. (b)(3)

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. (b)(3)  
(b)(6)

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

SUBJECT: CHRAC Meeting of 8 October 1996

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

(b)(3)

(b)(6)

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

(b)(3)

(b)(6)