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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

TO D/DIR	EXREG CONTROL NUMBER	KCC CONTROL NUMBER J9837G-92
THRU ExecDir _____	ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	EXREG SUSPENSE
SUBJECT FOIA Appeal - Arnold Beichman - Hoover Institution		KCC SUSPENSE
DISTRIBUTION ExecDir, ExReg, N5P5		ELEMENT SUSPENSE

SUMMARY

PURPOSE: To provide a FOIA requester with a fifth set of VENONA translations, explain his judicial review rights, and provide him with a copy of the monograph that will accompany the public release.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Arnold Beichman of the Hoover Institution submitted a FOIA request in December 1992 for "U.S. intercepted encoded Soviet messages...together with their decoded contents," specifically VENONA material originated during 1936-1947. All of the documents were denied in their entirety. Mr. Beichman appealed in July 1993. Copies of 49 translations were sent to Mr. Beichman on 10 July 1995, another 259 were sent on 10 October, 559 were sent on 4 March 1996, and 906 were sent on 12 July 1996.

This fifth partial appeal response provides Mr. Beichman with copies of 1358 VENONA translations which are scheduled to be released to the public on or about 1 October. It also explains his judicial review rights. This is the final set of best and final versions of the VENONA translations. A follow-up set of documents will be provided later which will include information withheld from previously released messages which no longer requires protection and copies of messages not located in the course of the other releases (these are mainly GCHQ finds of messages we did not locate in our search).

Deletions to the documents are made by NSA in accordance with (b)(1), (b)(3)/all statutes, and (b)(6) of the FOIA. For a detailed description of the rationale for withholding information, see tab (Redactions, 5th Release) inside. In addition, a complete listing of the names withheld and released, along with an explanation, can be found inside at tab (Names). The entire list of names is included for completeness because some of the names considered in the previous releases are also at issue in this release. (As we progress in the review of the documents, some names withheld in earlier releases are subsequently determined to be releasable.) A key to understanding which names appeared for the first time in each release is included on pages 1 and 2 of the list.

Copies of material processed by the British are also being released to the requester with this response. The documents have not been processed under the FOIA by NSA. We explain to the requester that the deletions (which have been "whited out") are consistent with NSA's deletions, but that if he requires additional processing of the material, he should notify us, and we will begin processing it under the FOIA.

Copies of the translations being released to the requester are available for review upon request. They are being held in OGC since they number over 2000 pages. Mr. Beichman will receive those copies concurrent with the public release.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend you sign the appeal response.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

COORDINATION/APPROVAL					
OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
ExReg		963-3201			
D/GC	Vito T. Potenza	963-5548			
N5P5	Dan Barchanowicz	963-5827			

<input type="checkbox"/>	ORG. U3	PHONE (Secure) 963-4057	DATE PREPARED 24 Sept. 1996/ <input type="checkbox"/>
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NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

TO D/DIR	EXREG CONTROL NUMBER	KCC CONTROL NUMBER J9837H-92
THRU ExecDir	ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	EXREG SUSPENSE
SUBJECT FOIA Appeal - Arnold Beichman - Hoover Institution		KCC SUSPENSE
DISTRIBUTION ExecDir, ExReg, N5P5		ELEMENT SUSPENSE

SUMMARY

PURPOSE: (U) To provide a FOIA requester with a sixth and final set of VENONA translations, explain his judicial review rights, and provide a copy of the monograph that will accompany the public release.

BACKGROUND: (U) Mr. Arnold Beichman of the Hoover Institution submitted a FOIA request in December 1992 for "U.S. intercepted encoded Soviet messages...together with their decoded contents," specifically VENONA material originated during 1936-1947. All of the documents were denied in their entirety. Mr. Beichman appealed in July 1993. Copies of 49 translations were sent to Mr. Beichman on 10 July 1995, 259 on 10 October, 559 on 4 March 1996, 906 on 12 July, and 1358 on 26 September.

(U) This sixth and final appeal response provides Mr. Beichman with copies of 97 VENONA translations which are scheduled to be released to the public on or about 9 September 1997. This is a follow-up set of documents which includes names withheld from previously released messages which no longer require protection (Tabs A and B) and copies of messages not located in the course of the other releases (Tab C).

(U) The material at Tab A was processed by NSA. The material at Tab B was processed by the British Government but not processed under the FOIA by NSA. We remind the requester (as we explained in previous correspondence) that the "whited out" deletions are as they were forwarded to NSA by the British.

~~(FOUO)~~ The documents at Tab C are mainly GCHQ finds of messages we did not locate in our search or are messages located by Lou Benson after a particular document set was released. Deletions are made by NSA in accordance with (b)(1), (b)(3)/all statutes, and (b)(6) of the FOIA. For a description of the rationale for withholding information, see tab (Redactions, 6th Release) inside.

~~(FOUO)~~ Also enclosed at Tab D is a package of documents (270 pages) selected by Lou Benson in response to your request that we release additional material of historical significance which could be reviewed easily and be released. We do not cite exemptions since this information is being provided to the requester as a courtesy because of his interest in VENONA and is not responsive to his FOIA request.

(U) Copies of the translations and material being released to the requester are available for review upon request. They are being held in OGC since they number almost 500 pages. Mr. Beichman will receive those copies concurrent with the public release.

RECOMMENDATION: (U) We recommend you sign the appeal response.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

COORDINATION/APPROVAL

OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
ExReg		963-3201			
D/GC	Vito T. Potenza	963-5548			
N5P5	Barbara Paisley	963-5827			

ORG. U3	PHONE (Secure) 963-4057	DATE PREPARED 3 September 1997/
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