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
### Report Documentation Page

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<td>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 adn JCS comprise the panel. the transcripts for the open sessions are prepared by a contract transcription service.</td>
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Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89) (EG)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. 239.18
Designed using Perform Pro, WHS/DIOR, Oct 94
PANEL MEMBERS:

DR. ALFRED GOLDBERG, CHAIRMAN

PROF. ANNE CAHN

PROF. MELVYN LEFFLER

PROF. ERNEST MAY

PROF. MARC TRACHTENBERG

DR. ROBERT WAMPLER

PROF. GERHARD WEINBERG

WILLIAM EPLEY

WILLIAM HEIMDAHL

BG DAVID ARMSTRONG

BENIS FRANK

BERNARD CAVALCANTE
PROCEDINGS

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: All right.

This is an open session of the panel. The morning session was a closed session. The first item of
business here this afternoon is a recap of the morning
session. I don't want to devote four hours to that so
I'll try to give it to you in four minutes or less.

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

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

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

We found a number of issues to be of particular
importance and these concern primarily the possibility of
securing some kind of delegation of authority for
declassification between elements of the Department of
Defense and between Defense Department elements and other
agencies. We recognize this is very difficult to
accomplish. We do think it's important. We expect to
We feel that it is important that more ready access, earlier access to declassified records be afforded researchers and the public here in the National Archives, that it often takes a very long time for declassified records to become accessible, and that this is something that should be addressed and it should be made possible for researchers and the public to get at these records soon after they're declassified instead of having to wait years sometimes to see them.

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

These guidelines perhaps ought to be directed to specific periods. It's probable that it would be difficult to get guidelines for the whole period from 1947 to 1975. We're willing to settle for something less than that, perhaps 1947 to '60 or '65.
And we also decided it's necessary to put these recommendations into a broader context, one which would pose the major problem of this declassification process under the executive order, namely making the most effective use of the resources which are available and where necessary and desirable, urging the use of the additional resources, the provision of additional resources including the increased use of reserve officers on active duty.

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

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

If you have any questions, we'll be glad to respond. If there are any observations or questions on this or other matters that are possibly within the province or within the purview of the commission, feel
MR. DAVID: Jim David.

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

MR. DAVID: Jim David, Air and Space Museum. Was there an actual representative of the National Archives here talking about the process in question?

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: They did discuss specifically RG330, which was the focus of a good bit of discussion and the fact that they are putting emphasis on that.
The chief point that emerged, I think, was that they're planning to do accession and declassification at the same time. They merged the two functions, the two organizations, so that they hope to do declassification the same time they're accessioning of the records.

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

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

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

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

(1) Processing classified collections that have been reviewed for declassification and are already at the National Archives and; (2) Accessioning from WNRC agency
directives, et cetera.

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: With him?

MR. DAVID: With him.

DR. GOLDBERG: You have already corresponded with him?

MR. DAVID: Correct.

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

MR. DAVID: Correct.

DR. GOLDBERG: And you want answers. All
right, I'll ask him for answers.

MR. DAVID: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: What's the difference in the nature of the records that were sent to College Park and
those which were retained at Suitland?

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

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

From '47 through '55 they've been at the National Archives for some years. Now those accessions weren't chosen to be transferred to National Archives in early '96 versus some of the accessions that were, I don't know; I can't answer that.

DR. GOLDBERG: But you have asked the question?

MR. DAVID: Correct.

MR. HEIMDAHL: I would get the impression that records that are already at College Park that came in early '96 are the ones to which Mike Kurtz was referring this morning, that these are now being given some
priority in terms of this newly reorganized combination of processing and declassification. And he'll give us the status. He indicated that at our next meeting, our September meeting, in terms of exactly how much is being done to address those records.

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

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

MR. DAVID: At WNRC, yes.

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

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

MR. DAVID: Yes, they have legal custody and control. But that doesn't mean they have declassification control.
PROFESSOR WEINBERG: It was precisely this issue that the recommendation Dr. Goldberg just commented on was designed to address, because we were concerned when we heard the report that there is Archives authority to declassify in the OSD material. But it is based on guidelines from the early 1980s.

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

DR. GOLDBERG: The Archives has been exercising limited authority to declassify records, OSD and others. But it is limited and it is limited, in part, by the guidelines and limited also by certain -- probably by a certain timidity about making decisions on what seem to be very sensitive material.
It is a matter, as we discussed also this morning, of getting much better coordination between OSD and the Archives and the other elements of DOD and still other agencies, and other agencies that we feel need a much closer relationship with the State Department. So that we can help each other in speeding up declassification by giving greater authority to declassify.

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

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

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

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

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

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

But as Professor Weinberg pointed out, the
guidance that Jeanne Schauble's people -- the guidance
being used dates from 1983 and our concern, then, is that
it should be more current guidance reflecting the current
executive order, the current status of the world, so to
speak, since the end of the Cold War.

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: Kurtz has a copy.

MR. HEIMDAHL: But let him rejoinder.

BG ARMSTRONG: Tell him that we're going to be
raising these issues when he gives his briefing.
MR. HEIMDAHL: Right, that's a good idea

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID: Pardon?

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

MR. FRANK: The fact that one of the documents
is 300 pages.

MR. DAVID: 300 pages.

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

MR. DAVID: Pardon?

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

MR. DAVID: She hasn't gotten that.

DR. GOLDBERG: That's another reason.

PROFESSOR CAHN: Is that available on the Web?

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

MR. KINNEY: No, it is not.

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

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

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

MR. DAVID: That was just a way for the panel to compare what was reviewed, went to College Park and
what's still at WNRC.

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: The silence is getting very heavy.

MR. NORRIS: Robert Norris.

I notice that almost everybody has a copy of the Moynihan report in front of them and I wonder if that was a subject of the conversation this morning or any conclusions were drawn from it that would be helpful?
DR. GOLDBERG: We had a briefing on it.

BG ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, who are you?

MR. NORRIS: Robert Norris.

BG ARMSTRONG: What do you do?

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

BG ARMSTRONG: Okay.

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

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

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

And that is one of the major burdens of the report. And there is a whole chapter on declassification in the report also.
I think, in general, we were in agreement with most of the recommendations of the commission and we are hopeful that something will come of it. We were told by the briefer that there was legislation pending, that there would be hearings on legislation derived from the recommendations of the commission. Just what the contents of the legislation is, we don't know and what its fate will be is indeterminable. It takes a long time to get through congressional committees.

PROFESSOR WEINBERG: I was going to add that one of the things which was stressed in the briefing was one of the central recommendations of the commission. It's implied in what Dr. Goldberg just said. That is to say the concept that while executive orders may be required, surely will be required to govern details, procedures and so on, but that one of the major things called for was congressional legislation on the subject of classification, declassification in general. And the second concept, it seems to me both stressed in the report and in his briefing this morning, was that classification needs to be seen as a part of the life cycle of the document as well as eventual
And I think most members of this group find both of these concepts, that is to say that there needs to be framework legislation, and that documents should be looked at not just simply now that they have been stamped, but at some point other things are going to happen to the life cycle concept. It seems to me that people are generally in agreement on that.

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

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

But that in practice, unless large numbers of documents declassify themselves, and others require by
their classification a review for possible extension, then in practice, the application of the life cycle concept will never make any change in the existing system.

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

DR. GOLDBERG: Any other comments?

(No response.)

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

Yes?

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

First of all, did the National Archives
representatives discuss specifically the large numbers of very high level Air Force records that the Air Force has reviewed for declassification the last couple of years now that they're at College Park and are also not processed?

DR. GOLDBERG: No.

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: Yes, we had a briefing.

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

DR. GOLDBERG: To speak directly to your
question, we did not focus on the Air Force records. We
did focus on the matter of accessibility to records that
have been declassified, and the fact that it takes so
long, often, to get them made available.

As I indicated earlier, that was discussed.

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

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: Priorities.

DR. GOLDBERG: And other priorities, yes.

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

In the Moynihan Commission report there's a
table in the latter part of the report for those numbers
for selected DOD components. Are the numbers of the
remaining DOD components available now?

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

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: So you have to be patient.

MR. DAVID: Well, I --
MR. HEIMDAHL: But only until September when we get our report.

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

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

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

PROFESSOR CAHN: To be reviewed.

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

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: Right.

MR. DAVID: I know it lists the number of pages declassified in FY-96. I don't believe it lists the number of pages reviewed but not declassified in FY-96.
But in any event, I just don't understand why these figures aren't available. I know ISOO hasn't come out with its FY-96 report, but God knows when this is going to occur.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: I would like to take one second to go back to what Mr. David said about the Air Force records at College park.
What you address is a problem with the National Archives that the records have been, if you want to say reviewed, not necessarily totally declassified, they're transferred, or they're accessioned by NARA. But they are then not processed and made available for public review.

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

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

So, I'm just saying NARA's manpower and resources are finite. And they can't be expected to be
handling everything simultaneously and make everything
totally accessible instantaneously.

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

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

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: The Maritime Commission.

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

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

I just don't understand how they prioritize
their processing responsibility.

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: Will Kurtz be available?
BG ARMSTRONG: Yes.

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

BG ARMSTRONG: To the open meeting?

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

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

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

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

DR. GOLDBERG: I think they do intend to do a good deal of research in connection with our next meeting. We did ask a lot of questions that will require them to compile information that they apparently have not put together yet.
DR. WAMPLER: He also indicated in his statement that he was trying to confirm with us that we thought the high-level OSD Record Group 330 is where we would want them to prioritize, giving me the sense that he was trying to find a way to address our priorities in the processing of the records.

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

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

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

This raises important questions, because -- it raises important questions for us, but also raises important questions for the people who are going to have to do the work, namely NARA and DOD components and other agencies, and what kinds of priority should we be trying to establish or recommending?
I confess I'm not certain whether we ought to give priority to some of those areas or not, whether we should stick with record groups and say go ahead and do the whole thing from the beginning chronologically or to say focus on those particular areas of this record. I don't think we've worked that out yet.

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID: Not as a matter of top priority.
DR. GOLDBERG: At times in the history of OSD they've been almost as important as the records of the Secretary himself. Have you ever worked through them?

MR. DAVID: Yes, actually, I have.

DR. GOLDBERG: Controller records?

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

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

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

PROFESSOR WEINBERG: At one time, the
controller was the place to which one appealed. I know
because I have to do it, on behalf of a committee on
classification matters. That changed after a while, but
for a number of years, the controller was the place where
one appealed classification and declassification.

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

PROFESSOR WEINBERG: That's another matter.

DR. GOLDBERG: That is where it comes from.

That is where Larry Curry and Brian Kinney are appealing
for money now. When they want declassification money,
the controller is going to have to say, yes, we have, you
can have it.

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: Dr. Goldberg, you are more
knowledgeable than I on this subject, but I believe the
National Archives has an historical advisory committee
just like many other agencies. Perhaps Mr. David needs
to write to that committee or its representatives. Most
of the professional associations, the OAH, the HA, the Society of American Archivists have representatives that sit on the NARA advisory committee.

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

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

MR. HEIMDAHL: He's also a politician.

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

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

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

MR. PASSARELLA: No.
DR. GOLDBERG: All right.

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

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