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ComposedDate: 05/29/1997

ComposedDate_Time: 3:33:30 PM

Subject: June 2-4 confirmation and discussion
CALL REPORT DOCUMENT'S AUTHOR: Christopher Barger/ARRB Date Created: 05/29/97 THE PLAYERS WHO INITIATED the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Christopher BargerDepartment of the Army's representative in the call: Toni BowieDescription of the Call Date: 05/29/97Subject: June 2-4 confirmation and discussionSummary of the Call:I called Toni Bowie this afternoon to confirm that she is coming Monday morning to conduct declassification review. The phone call was cordial and professional, but it became clear to me that this session is going to be fraught with serious problems due to differences of opinion and approach. This call report will make no suggestions as to what steps need to be taken to alleviate this problem; I will simply report the nature of the call. I first asked Bowie to confirm that she had received our fax of May 27 outlining what we expected of her in this session; she said she had. Bowie next reiterated that three days was not going to be enough time to review six boxes of documents. I told her that we would do the best we could and hoped we could at least make good progress. She then told me that she had been reviewing the index of the material (which I prepared upon first reviewing the documents last August and which I had furnished to her), and said that she could see just from the titles that "State is all over this stuff; so is CIA," etc. I explained again that we knew that most of these documents contained other agency equities, and that our purpose was to declassify what we could, and identify which other agencies need to review the remainder. She informed me that she was troubled by the Board's assertion that Army held final declassification authority over these documents. "If these are CIA documents, I don't have the authority to declassify them. CIA has to do that." I explained once more that it was our understanding that if the documents were contained in an Army collection such as the Califano papers, then Army indeed had final authority over them. She said that that is not her understanding. (After the conclusion of this phone call, I took the liberty of leaving a voice mail for Steve Tilley at NARA asking him to, before Monday, either to call me or fax me an official NARA judgment on this matter so that there will be no question as to who has this authority.)Bowie then asked if we intended to have each agency review the documents it originated in this collection for declassification. I told her that we would have each relevant agency look at the documents after this initial review, but the decision had been made to have Army engage in this exercise first. Ms. Bowie then informed me that she had no authority to declassify these documents, but that she would be willing to downgrade the Top Secret documents to Secret or Confidential in order to make them easier for us to handle when farming them out to other agencies. She mentioned that in the unexpected case where there might be unclassified documents or "schedule four" documents that were automatically downgraded, she could stamp them "unclassified" if we had a stamp. She

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