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Subject: Conference Call and Updates

Everyone but the vacationing Judge Tunheim participated in the call. I will record the items we discussed and include a couple of updates that were not discussed yesterday.1. I thought that the hearing went very well. Chairman Thompson made a positive reference to my prepared statement in his opening statement. All of the feedback I received was very positive. The witnesses from the agencies (CIA, DOD, and DOE) were people responsible for declassification. I was not asked any questions about the cost of our work, although others were.2. We have received a revised draft proposed settlement in the NBC case. It is being sent to you by FedEx today (Thursday). My initial impression is that it resolves, in principal, the basic issues. I will be reviewing it more carefully and will advise you of any thoughts that I have on it. 3. We received a "regrets" from John Lewis Gaddis. (I saw Sheryl at the hearing and she said she would like to come if she is in the country, but she is expecting to be away.) In the call, we discussed some of the logistics for the conference. The plan will be to have the Board and experts sitting at a table. Staff and interested observers will be able to observe from behind. The lunch will be a platter provided by Au Bon Pain and will be paid from the generous and deep pockets of the Board members and myself.4. I have a luncheon meeting with Dagoberto Rodriguez of the Cuban Interests Section on Monday. Our fingers should be crossed. Peggy Grafeld of State called me after the conference call and told me that she had no updates on the Gore-Chernomyrdin talks, other than that she knew the issue had been raised on several levels. She also had no update on Belarus. She apologized profusely, and promised to call me back with an update. One problem, she said, is that Pat Kennedy has acquired another hat (he is now also Acting Secretary of State for Consular Security). 5. An important item that I did not mention during the call is a sudden slow-down in FBI records processing by the Bureau. This is an issue of significant concern that we will be addressing promptly.6. I am going to give the office a surprise (please keep this a secret) morale-boosting present tomorrow (Friday). The weather is supposed to be beautiful and balmy. I will tell everyone at noon that they can go home (or to the beach).7. A FedEx package is being sent out today for Friday delivery. Have a nice weekend.

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